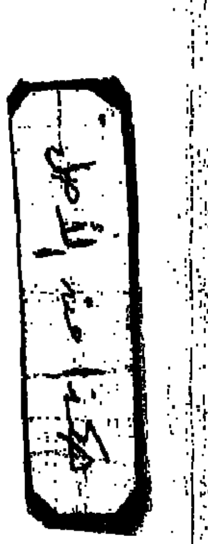


The German Tribune

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Europe senses a need to seize the initiative

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Western Europe can only gain influence commensurate with its economic and strategic importance by adopting a creative policy of its own instead of merely reacting to moves by the East.

European politicians in Brussels note with alarm the decline of US leadership in Washington and feel President Reagan is unlikely to recover politically after publication of the Tower Report.

They feel sure of themselves on this point even though Mr Gorbachov's latest proposal presents the President with an opportunity of concluding the first arms control agreement since 1972.

They are also convinced the US leader is determined to scrap the ABM Treaty despite the doubts outlined by America's European allies to US special envoys Paul Nitze and Richard Perle.

It is now up to Europe, they feel, to develop ideas of its own.

Nato's dual function defined nearly 20 years ago in the Harmel Report still applies. It is to aim, on the basis of credible defence, at normalisation and improvement of relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

That presupposes all Nato countries playing their respective parts on a basis of equality.

Europe's reliance on vital transatlantic links in no way affects the need for European Nato members to make contributions of their own toward a more stable security order in Europe.

This is the firm conviction of politicians who played a leading role in drawing up the current Nato guidelines.

In military terms the superpowers retain their weight, but their decisions, like those of smaller states, depend on the "globalisation" of world affairs and must be seen in a problem context that is apparent from economic constraints for one.

The role of the Federal Republic is crucial if a European policy is to be effectively pursued. The more predictable and self-assured Bonn's policy is, the stronger Europe can become, or so European experts feel.

A threat is posed, it is agreed in Brussels and Paris, by a Federal Republic that prefers to abide by the motto of being an economic giant but a political dwarf.

West German neutralism would pose the greatest threat to the balance of power in Europe; Mr Gorbachov's policy might then gain sufficient weight to upset the balance.

Close coordination between Bonn and Paris is seen as the nucleus of any joint European approach even though it might at times upset smaller partners.

If the Federal Republic and France were one day to join forces militarily (Paris could deploy its force de frappe further east without relinquishing control over its nuclear weapons), the prospect of weaker US commitments in Europe would be less alarming.

Experts in Brussels feel this aspect would assume even greater importance if the United States were to continue its SDI programme under President Reagan's successor.

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe could never have been held had Nato not adopted the policy outlined 20 years ago in the Harmel Report.

Mutual recognition of the boundaries of the two pacts as the basis for normalisation and detente would then not have been possible.

The CSCE is still the venue where East and West can size each other up in terms of the basic demands laid down in the Final Act at Helsinki — and where European issues can be raised at gatherings where the superpowers share responsibility.

It is at the CSCE level that the West must put Moscow's new policy approach to the test. Washington must be clearly made to understand, European politicians add, that a policy aimed at forcing the Soviet Union to its knees economically or technologically would be pointless and dangerous as it might prompt Moscow to react unpredictably.

Europeans, they conclude, must concentrate on persuading the superpowers to go ahead with strategic arms reduction rather than harbour illusions of security being attainable by total defence or total protection.

Jan Reifenberg

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 March 1987)

IN THIS ISSUE

The next edition of
THE GERMAN TRIBUNE
will be on 5 April



Chancellor sworn in

Chancellor Kohl (left) is sworn in by the Speaker of the Bundestag, Philipp Jenninger, as Parliament resumes after the general election. There are two new faces in a slightly reshuffled Cabinet (see page 3). (Photo: Sven Simon)

Swopped invitations show it's not just a party in Berlin

The Mayor of West Berlin, Eberhard Diepgen, and the East Berlin party leader, Erich Honecker, have issued invitations to each other to take part in Berlin's 750th anniversary celebrations this year.

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

The 750th anniversary celebrations in West and East Berlin are not just a reminder of the city's past. They are also an occasion to improve the future.

West Berlin's Mayor, Eberhard Diepgen, seems to be the first in the West to have grasped this chance of putting the hidebound relations between the two parts of the city on to a better footing.

No matter how much Mr Gorbachov's policies might relieve tension in East-West relations — and thus make possible greater flexibility in relations between bothparts of a divided Germany — little change is yet apparent in Berlin, where the two systems meet.

The two halves of the city have been moving increasingly in separate directions. The West has looked on helplessly as East Berlin, in breach of Allied agreements, became increasingly integrated into East Germany until it reached the stage where it was internationally acknowledged as its capital city.

Senior West German politicians often visit East Berlin, yet the Mayors of West Berlin have seemed incapable of crossing the Wall.

Whenever treaties are negotiated between the Federal Republic and an East Bloc country, the Berlin Question comes up. Were West Berlin institutions included with institutions in the Federal Republic?

These points must be seen in connection with difficult issues of status including East Berlin's aim of upgrading itself to a capital and degrading West Berlin's status.

Mayor Diepgen's right-wing adversaries in the CDU are against top-level reciprocal visits. Whatever East Berlin did, it had ulterior motives.

Mayor Diepgen's visit might of course boost East Berlin's "capital city" status. Conversely, East Berlin leader Erich Honecker's attendance at the corresponding ceremony in West Berlin will have an effect.

His presence at a ceremony attended by President von Weizsäcker and Chancellor Kohl will confirm East Germany's acknowledgement of the Federal presence and acceptance of strong ties between the western part of the city and the Federal Republic.

That is an opportunity of both maintaining vital links with the West and seeking a compromise with East Germany, which is something free Berlin no less urgently needs.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 12 March 1987)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Japan emerges as a crucial factor in global security

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

Whenever the zero option for missiles in Europe is mooted, the level of Japanese mistrust rises rapidly.

Both the Russians and the Americans used to be fond of suggesting that Soviet multiple-warhead missiles might be withdrawn from Europe and relocated east of the Urals.

This is an idea no-one would venture to suggest nowadays in view of the Japanese protests that would be sure to follow.

Yet even at Reykjavik last October the superpowers envisaged as part of their zero option for Europe the acceptance of 100 Soviet missile warheads in Asia.

In Japanese eyes this is in patent disregard of their demand for arms control bids of any kind to be undertaken globally.

And that means bearing in mind Japanese defences against the Soviet Union.

This issue is more important than ever in Japan today. Within a mere six years Japan's crucial role in the global security policy of the West has for the first time been seen for what it is.

Former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt was partly responsible for this gradual realisation.

The basic wisdom of global strategy — and a controversial issue in Japanese home affairs — is that Nato, as a pact linking America and Western Europe, would be hollow were it not for the existence of the Japanese-US alliance in the Pacific.

The head of the second, Western European department at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, Ratoshi Hara, promptly issues visitors from Western Europe with maps to illustrate the Japanese viewpoint.

On them the Soviet Union is seen to be enormous, with Western Europe and Japan as minor appendages at either end. "We are all in the same boat," Western Europeans are told — regardless whether they are Nato members.

Individual countries may be exchangeable but there can be no mistaking the overall tenor of the Japanese appeal.

Japan has come to attach greater importance to Western Europe, both for strategic reasons and in an understandable bid to counterbalance economic dependence on the American market.

Psychology also plays a part. The alliance between Tokyo and Washington is still subliminally burdened by the US World War II defeat of Japan.

In seeking closer ties with Western Europe Japan may hope to enter a new era of common Western interests that take the edge off this ongoing strain on ties with Washington.

Ryoji Onodera, one of Japan's foreign policy planners, used to work at the Japanese embassy in Bonn, where his wife made a name for herself with her modern painting.

He is now deputy director-general of the office of information analysis, research and planning at the Foreign Ministry and has this point to stress:

"That Japan belonged to the West was already clear. What is new is that we are saying so. An active Western consciousness has taken shape."

Alarm at the expansion of the Soviet submarine fleet in nearby Soviet Pacific waters is almost tangible. Besides, the Japanese are growing increasingly worried that disarmament agreements in Europe might lead to Soviet potential being transferred to the Far East.

The Japanese Defence Minister paid Nato headquarters in Brussels his first visit in December. He was the first Japanese Defence Minister to do so.

In the New Year Japan's Self-Defence Forces controversially exceeded a spending ceiling for the first time in 10 years.

Defence spending, pegged to one per cent of GNP, now exceeds the limit by a hair's-breadth but crucial 0.004 per cent.

Other symbolic changes must also be noted. Japan's 79 F 15 fighters used not to be fitted with reserve fuel tanks so as not to upset neighbouring South-East Asian countries.

They now have additional tanks and have extended their operational radius.

By virtue of its geographic location and in cooperation with the US fleet Japan can keep at bay the Soviet Pacific fleet operating from Vladivostok.

The Japanese islands and South Korea serve as a barrier that could effectively cut off the Soviet fleet in an emergency.

Professor Sase of the National Defence Academy summarises this capacity, about which Tokyo has always been most reticent, as follows:

"The Europeans have not by a long way yet appreciated that Japan is part of the West in security matters too."

US Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger would frankly like to see Japan step up its defence commitments, but the Japanese government, at least outwardly, prefers restraint.

"We don't have to defend America. The Americans have to defend us," says planning chief Onodera, "and in return they have military bases in Japan."

Engelbert Washietl

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 13 March 1987)

French scepticism over Soviet proposals on disarmament

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

The latest Soviet disarmament proposals have for the most part met with a sceptical French response. Only the Communists and a few Socialists have welcomed them unconditionally.

Where French nuclear weapons are concerned Socialist President François Mitterrand and his conservative government are agreed they can on no account be the subject of US-Soviet disarmament talks.

Alluding to the enormous stockpiles of nuclear warheads built up by the superpowers, French officials say — as they have done in the past — that America and Russia must first clearly demonstrate their own readiness to disarm.

Until they do so there can be no question of France reducing its nuclear armament. Before the 1987 summer recess the French National Assembly will approve expenditure on modernisation and reinforcement of France's nuclear force de frappe.

US readiness to disarm is viewed in Paris with great regret as a foreign policy success for the Soviet Union. French officials admit to being worried that President Reagan might be caught in a Soviet trap.

They recall that the traditional aim of Kremlin strategists has always been to undermine ties between America and Europe.

In other words, Moscow is keen to see America relinquish its traditional role as Western Europe's protecting power.

Mr Gorbachov is felt to be making skilful use of anti-American sentiment fanned by Communists and pacifists and of the declining interest in this protective role among parts of US opinion.

If he succeeds in putting his disarmament plans into effect European security may well have had it, French officials suggest.

The enormous superiority the East Bloc enjoys in non-nuclear weapons (conventional, chemical and biological) is felt to pose a threat to Western Europe that at present can only be kept at bay by means of US nuclear potential.

So the French government is convinced priority must be given to stabilising alliance ties between America and Europe.

The French view with alarm and dismay the enthusiasm Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has shown about the Soviet disarmament initiative.

It is felt to bear out their surmise that the Federal Republic is gradually switching to a policy of neutrality with a view one day to being rewarded by the Soviet Union with the reunification of the two German states.

A German state with any such objectives is seen in Paris as a factor for uncertainty in the heart of Europe and thus as undesirable.

France, it is argued, is not strong enough to take on the role of a protecting power.

There is a further reason why France is not prepared to given an automatic guarantee that it will defend the territory of its European allies.

It is that no aggressor is to know in advance how France intends to react when the need arises.

The President of the Republic is to continue to be the sole judge of when and where French nuclear weapons are to be used.

This is a point on which French politicians are virtually unanimous.

Uwe Karsten Petersen

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 6 March 1987)

Von Weizsäcker makes trip to Latin America

President von Weizsäcker is visiting four very different countries — Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia and Guatemala — on a tour of Latin America.

Since the days of Heinrich Lübke, Federal President from 1959 to 1969, every Bonn head of state has made at least one tour of Latin America from the Rio Grande to Tierra del Fuego.

These visits have made a lasting impression on the political and economic elites in charge of the destinies of millions of South Americans.

The President only visits countries with democratic governments. The aim of his travels is to encourage democratisation.

There is some hypocrisy in public opinion on this subject. A handshake between Herr von Weizsäcker and General Pinochet would be unthinkable yet a visit by Herr von Weizsäcker to Moscow or Warsaw would probably be welcomed.

Von Weizsäcker made his first unofficial stopover in Brazil and met President Sarney, who ended a long period of military rule in Brazil just over two years ago.

His country's problems are unchanged. Brazil has foreign debts totalling $108bn, including about $5bn owed to German banks.

Yet Brazil is a gigantic country (3? times the size of the Federal Republic) and ought, with its progressive industrialisation and natural resources, to be more prosperous.

In Argentina the German head of state will again meet President Alfonsin, who was in Bonn about 18 months ago, having ended eight years of military rule in Argentina, the country many feel to be the most European in Latin America, in autumn 1984.

President von Weizsacker and his party, including the new Economic Cooperation Minister, Hans Klein, will encounter constant reminders of the junta period.

The *punto final* legislation ruling on new charges against the military for offences committed during military rule is, for one, still extremely controversial.

President von Weizsäcker will also be welcomed by democratically elected heads of state in Bolivia and Guatemala, both countries with a predominantly Indian population.

The German delegation is not in a position to be particularly generous to its hosts, but it can remind them that the Federal Republic has been one of the most generous aid donors for roughly 35 years.

Joachim Sobotta

(Rheinische Post, Dusseldorf, 16 March 1987)

The German Tribune

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Two new faces in the new Kohl cabinet

In the reshuffled Cabinet, Jürgen Möllemann (FDP) comes in as Education Minister and Hans Klein (CSU) as Economic Cooperation Minister. Dorothee Wilms (CDU) moves from Education to Intra-German Affairs; Jürgen Warnke (CSU) moves from Economic Cooperation to Transport.

(Photos: Simon 7, Werek 4, Oed 3, Poly-Press 3, Bundesbildstelle 1)

Helmut Kohl, CDU
b. 3 April 1930
Chancellor



Hans-Dietrich Genscher, FDP
b. 21 March 1927
Foreign Affairs



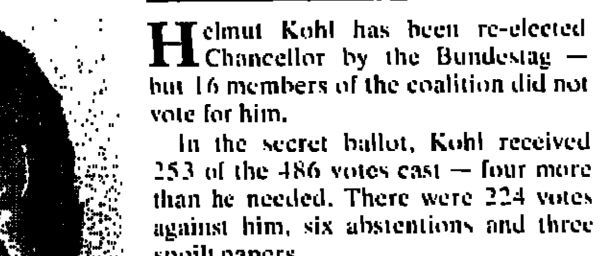
Friedrich Zimmermann, CSU
b. 18 July 1925
Interior



Hans A. Engelhard, FDP
b. 16 Sep. 1934
Justice



Gerhard Stoltenberg, CDU
b. 29 Sep. 1928
Finance



Martin Bangemann, FDP
b. 15 Nov. 1934
Economic Affairs

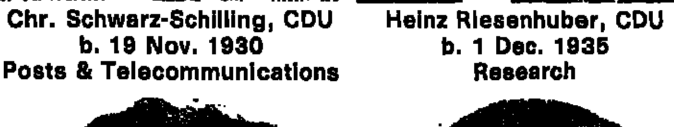
Ignaz Kiechle, CSU
b. 23 Feb. 1930
Agriculture

Norbert Blüm, CDU
b. 21 July 1935
Labour

Manfred Wörner, CDU
b. 24 Sep. 1934
Defence



Jürgen Warnke, CSU
b. 20 March 1932
Transport

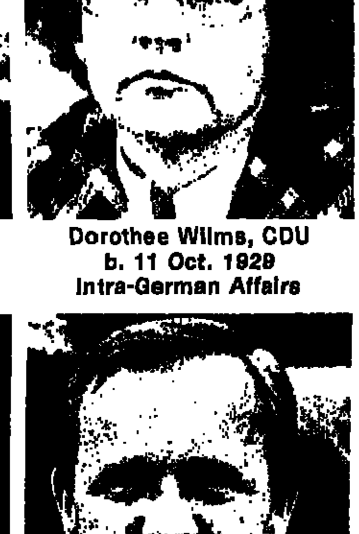


Chr. Schwarz-Schilling, CDU
b. 19 Nov. 1930
Posts & Telecommunications

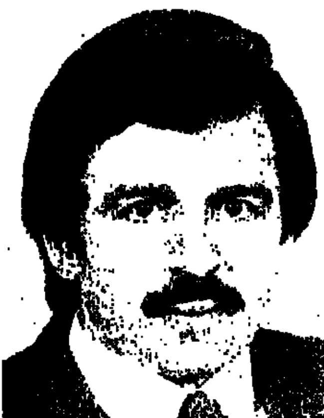
Heinz Riesenhuber, CDU
b. 1 Dec. 1935
Research

Oscar Schneider, CSU
b. 3 June 1927
Housing





Dorothee Wilms, CDU
b. 11 Oct. 1929
Intra-German Affairs



Rita Süssmuth, CDU
b. 17 Feb. 1937
Family Affairs/Health



Jürgen Möllemann, FDP
b. 15 July 1945
Education





Hans Klein, CSU
b. 11 July 1931
Economic Cooperation



Walter Wallmann, CDU
b. 24 Sep. 1932
Environment

Free Democrats given a fourth portfolio

The Free Democrats successfully held out for their representation in the Cabinet to be increased from three to four during post-election coalition talks (see page 4). They take over the Education post which was held by the CDU. Two ministers in the old Cabinet, Werner Dollinger (CSU, Transport) and Heinrich Windelen (CDU, Intra-German Affairs) are out.

Helmut Kohl has been re-elected Chancellor by the Bundestag — but 16 members of the coalition did not vote for him.

In the secret ballot, Kohl received 253 of the 486 votes cast — four more than he needed. There were 224 votes against him, six abstentions and three spoilt papers.

The SPD leader in the Bundestag, Hans-Jochen Vogel, described the vote as a "spectacular defeat" for the Chancellor.

But the CSU chairman, Franz Josef Strauss, pointed out that Konrad Adenauer was once elected chancellor by a majority of one.

Chancellor Kohl's new Cabinet, sworn in the next day, contains two new members. Jürgen Möllemann (FDP) and Hans Klein (CSU) who take over respectively the portfolios of Education and Science and Economic Cooperation.

Möllemann replaces a CDU minister, Dorothee Wilms, who goes to Intra-German Affairs where she replaces Heinrich Windelen (CDU), who is said to have retired on health grounds.

Klein replaces another CSU minister, Jürgen Warnke, who takes over the Transport portfolio from Werner Dollinger, who is out.

One of the big surprises of the reshuffle was Mölleman's appointment. He used to be minister of state in the Foreign Office.

Chancellor Kohl offered this cabinet post to the FDP, the junior coalition partner after it refused to back down from demands for a fourth portfolio.

The FDP would only have agreed to three ministerial jobs if the total number of cabinet posts had been reduced.

The increase in the number of FDP cabinet posts means that the man originally designated as Windelen's successor, the parliamentary secretary of state in the Ministry for Intra-German Affairs, Ottfried Hennig (CDU), will have to wait for promotion.

Klein's appointment was also unexpected. Klein has primarily made a name for himself in foreign policy.

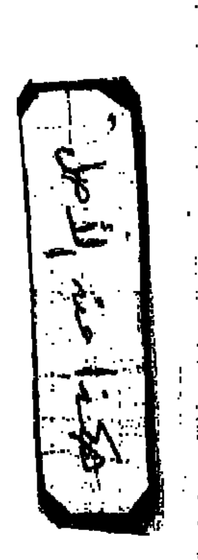
There have also been some changes at minister of state and parliamentary secretary of state level.

Bundestag member Ludolf von Warthenberg (CDU) replaces the parliamentary secretary of state in the Economics Ministry, Martin Grüner (FDP), who is now parliamentary secretary of state in the Environment Ministry. Erich Riedl (CSU) moves into the Economics Ministry.

The Foreign Office has two new ministers of state: Irmgard Adam-Schwaetzer and Helmut Schäfer (both FDP).

Lutz Stavenhagen (CDU) has left the Foreign Office to become coordinator for European policy in the Federal Chancellery.

(Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf, 12 March 1987)



■ HOME AFFAIRS

Policy aims decided after tortuous coalition talks

The three coalition parties, the CDU, the CSU and the FDP, have finally reached agreement on government policy for the next four years. The talks were long and difficult. In economic, financial and social policy the emphasis will be on the major tax reform scheduled for 1990. Other major legislative plans include reforms of social security and health insurance.

It took the three coalition party leaders six weeks to agree even on an agenda for their policy talks.

For much of the time, the going was hard and there was much disagreement. It is doubtful whether the programme agreed will hold for the full four years.

The sum total of reservations far outweighs, in both quantity and quality, that of specific commitments.

Many commitments have questions hanging over them. It is still unclear, for example, how old-age pensions are to be paid for and how health-service costs are to be cut; and there is still a long list of domestic and legal issues unresolved.

Some people might even think that the Bonn leadership's real intentions are less clear now than they were when the marathon coalition talks began.

Yet Chancellor Kohl, the CDU leader, can be absolutely satisfied with himself and the outcome.

This would only appear to be a contradiction in terms. The comprehensive coalition agreements reached by the parties are not binding on him.

In political terms he will only be committed to what he specifically outlines in his forthcoming government policy statement to the Bundestag.

Helmut Kohl has learnt from the mistakes he made in 1982 and 1983. As far as at all possible he warded off attempts to exert unnecessary pressure of time on his new conservative-liberal government.

He issued instructions to take it easy, bearing in mind that external factors would make day-to-day work hectic enough in any case.

The Chancellor thus retained adequate leeway for a pragmatic approach. Any impression that he has been reduced to choir leader singing choruses composed by Franz Josef Strauss is clearly mistaken.

In the end the Chancellor's choice of patiently making do with the role of a neutral moderator has paid handsome dividends.

He has certainly passed the first test of strength of his new term in office without suffering any visible harm.

Others have lost stature, not the Chancellor. The others even include the seemingly impregnable Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg.

Herr Strauss too, who had ample opportunity for showing his mettle as an all-round politician, failed to prove he has the leadership quality that might cause others to advise the Chancellor to emulate.

Whether the coalition parties can, with an easy conscience, answer to their voters for the terms to which they have agreed is another matter.

The priorities are too unclear, the question marks are too large. No-one knows what the tax reforms are going to cost the individual taxpayer on balance.

It is a mystery how old-age pensions are to be funded and how health service costs are to be cut. The backlog of home and legal affairs problems has not been solved and will continue to have an adverse influence on the climate of coalition ties.

It is surely a foregone conclusion that the CSU leader, Herr Strauss, will continue at regular intervals to say FDP Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's policy toward South Africa is intolerable.

The CSU played its hand for all it was worth yet failed to fully outbid the FDP in its attempt to introduce tougher regulations against rallies and demonstrations.

For Herr Strauss this partial failure hardly matters. Unlike the CDU and the FDP, he has no election campaigns to fight for the next three years.

On balance the Free Democrats have probably fared best, having wisely limited themselves to three main demands they can now claim to have been fulfilled.

They were the continuation of peace and detente policy, tax relief for all and the incorporation of environmental protection in the constitution.

The Christian Democrats may well find life hardest in coping with the vague compromises reached.

But what they have failed to achieve in the coalition talks should be largely offset by the re-election of Chancellor Kohl.

A constitutional provision that remains in force is that the guidelines of Federal government policy are laid down by the Chancellor.

Eghard Mörbitz

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 March 1987)

What the parties agreed on

Tax reform: In 1990 income and corporation tax are to be cut by DM44.4bn, of which DM25bn will be bona fide tax relief, the remainder being offset by lower subsidies and, possibly, higher indirect taxes on consumer goods.

Tax relief totalling DM5.2bn is to be brought forward to 1988, increasing to roughly DM14bn the volume of tax relief in 1986/88.

Family affairs: No legislation involving expenditure is planned this year or next. The government's finances will then be reviewed to see whether Bonn can afford to increase children's allowances (from the second child on) or to pay maternity grants for longer than the present year.

Capital formation: Government bonuses on pay-as-you-earn savings and insurance accounts will be scrapped from 1989, while the maximum bonus paid on PAYE building society accounts will be cut from 23 to 10 per cent.

The alternative, a 14-per-cent bonus on PAYE building society account funds, will be reduced to eight per cent.

Economic affairs and welfare: Shops are to stay open later one evening a week. So are government and local authority offices.

The surcharge on electricity bills to help offset the extra cost of fuelling coal-fired power stations is to be reassessed and will probably be increased.

Amendments to the Works Councils Act are planned to reinforce minority rights, including committees to represent the interests of managerial staff.

Staff representation on the supervisory boards of coal and steel firms will be renewed on expiry of the existing provisions.

Works councils are to be entitled to consultation, but no more, on the introduction of new techniques.

Proposals for structural reform of pension funds and health insurance schemes are to be drawn up and submitted by the beginning of next year.

Employment: Schemes will be introduced to promote the reintegration of women in working life. Hindrances to the employment of women, such as the ban on women working at night, are to be abolished.

Provisions for part-time jobs in the public sector are to be improved, as are (unpaid) sabbatical leave arrangements.

Better provisions are planned for unemployed youngsters and older working people. Short-time benefit is to be paid for up to two years, as against a maximum of six months at present.

Agriculture: Government subsidies will be aimed at supporting family farms and not applying to factory farming.

Social security subsidies and value-added tax prepayment allowances are to be retained. Premiums will be paid for shutdowns, especially for reductions in milk output. Benefits will be paid for using less chemicals.

Environment: A comprehensive catalogue of measures is planned to combat pollution of water, soil and the atmosphere, with environmental protection being declared a constitutional objective.

Harmful spray gases are to be banned. Non-returnable bottles are to be discouraged.

Diesel-fuelled cars that fail to comply with strict US emission regulations will no longer qualify for tax benefits, while stricter limits will be imposed on trucks and commercial vehicles.

The fines to which environmental offenders are liable will be increased substantially. Companies will be compulsorily insured against third-party environmental risks.

Further research into alternative energy sources is to be promoted.

Health: Aids research and treatment funds are to be increased from DM20m to DM135m.

Aids victims or people who are *HIV*-positive are not to be compulsorily registered as demanded by the CSU, but laboratories are to be required to submit anonymous reports.

In view of the number of abortions legislation is planned to improve advisory services in this connection, ensuring that pregnant women are briefed on welfare provisions and the facilities provided by the Mother and Child Foundation.

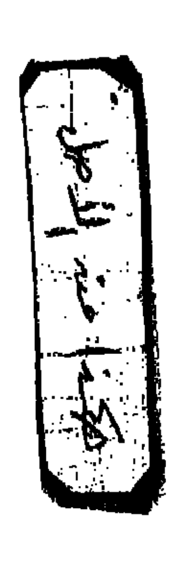
Home affairs: "Necessary measures" are to be considered and approved by this autumn. They will include making it a criminal offence to wear masks at rallies and on demonstrations.

"Passive armament," or the wearing of helmets and protective clothing, is to be made an offence, as is the public advocacy of violence.

In connection with breach of the peace offenders are to be more readily liable to detention if they are considered likely to repeat the offence.

A "supergrass" (turning state's evidence) provision is planned in terrorist trials, but terrorists guilty of murder are to be offered more lenient sentences and not allowed to get off scot-free.

(Lubecker Nachrichten, 11 March 1987)



■ PERSPECTIVE

Japan looks towards the South Pacific as Soviet influence in region grows

The ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand, USA) Pact is in decline. Soviet interest in the South Pacific is increasing. Japan is watching with concern. This article was written for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung by Peter Odrich.

Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari has been visiting several Pacific island-states with offers of economic assistance.

This renewed interest has a variety of clearly interacting causes. First, Japan has in recent years emerged, imperceptibly at first, as an Asian great power.

This power status is based not on armed forces but on Japan's economic success.

This fact is in no way modified by individual Far Eastern countries, such as South Korea, now worrying that Japan might soon develop from an economic into a military power.

This is a train of thought favoured by none of today's Japanese leaders, not even Premier Nakasone, who has a reputation for being well-disposed toward the military.

Consolidating economic power inevitably entails wider Japanese horizons. There are several reasons they are being widened toward the Pacific.

First, there has been something of a power vacuum in the region in recent years, with US dominance growing less strong and many infant states having gained independence.

New Zealand's political influence on the South Pacific has declined as a result of Premier Lange's strange antics.

France's continued nuclear tests on Mururoa Atoll have taken a heavy toll in any sympathy the tiny Pacific states might have felt toward Paris.

The Soviet Union has lately moved into this vacuum, with Soviet moves coming as an equal shock to the United States, Japan and the Ascan states, all of which have traditionally maintained strong trade ties with the South Pacific.

The Ascan states are particularly worried by the prospect of a further increase in Soviet commitments in the Pacific.

That is why they have, for the most part, approved of Mr Kuranari's mission despite their customary critical stance toward Japan.

Conversely, it is characteristic that of Asean's neighbours only pro-Moscow Vietnam has taken the opportunity of the Japanese initiative to conjure visions of Japan rearmed to the teeth and a military power.

It is surely self-evident that the Soviet Union is strongly critical of the Japanese overtures.

The first response to Soviet blandishments in the South Pacific was in 1985 when Moscow paid $2m for a so-called fishery agreement with Kiribati, an island-republic in the western central Pacific.

By the terms of the agreement Soviet fishing vessels are entitled to trawl in Kiribati waters and to lay on provisions and supplies at Kiribati's diminutive ports.

The second, much more significant success came in June 1986 when Moscow came to terms with Vanuatu on both economic issues and full mutual diplomatic recognition.

The Russians have since concluded an extensive fishery agreement that expressly entitles them to port rights in Vanuatu.

The Kremlin would dearly like to have negotiated landing rights for Aeroflot too, but that has (so far) been strictly ruled out by the Vanuatu government.

Numerous other island-states are known to have been approached by the Soviet Union with offers of one kind or another that all amount to roughly the same.

The Russians offer cash — dollars — in return for fishing and port rights for their fishing fleet.

At first glance there might seem to be no objection to Soviet fishing vessels trawling in the Pacific. Others fish there too. But Soviet moves have several drawbacks.

For one the Russians are keen to negotiate far-reaching, long-term port rights that could easily transform peaceful fishing bases into military outposts.

For another, Soviet interest is mainly aimed at the environs of US high-tech military installations in the Pacific, especially the vicinity of Kwajalein.

Kwajalein is a mid-Pacific atoll to which US inter-continental ballistic missiles are flown on test missions from California.

The missiles can be readily retrieved from the shallow waters round Kwajalein, while the area is so thinly populated that inaccurately targeted missiles are unlikely, even without warheads, to do the least damage. The Americans plan to set up a second high-tech base near the Marshall Islands soon. It will be used mainly for SDI test purposes. The closer the deadline, the less welcome is the constant presence of Soviet trawlers bristling with aerials even the uninitiated would readily identify as hardly being connected with fishing. Reconnaissance vessels can never be kept entirely at bay in peacetime, but the more rights the Russians enjoy in Pacific territorial waters and ports, the easier they will find it to stay around. The prospect of the Russians maintaining a close network of electronic surveillance gear in the region is one that greatly alarms both the Americans and the Japanese.

Regardless of tension that may exist between America and Japan on trade matters, military cooperation between the two is excellent, as recent bilateral defence talks in Honolulu have reaffirmed.

Japan depends on US military protection and knows it does. The United States readily lends this support despite constant lamentation about the cost because, as America sees it, Japan is the only safe base the United States on the Asian side of the Pacific. There is political uncertainty about the US bases in the Philippines and although Guam is US territory it is too small to be America's mainstay on the other side of the Pacific.

In the final analysis Japan and the United States thus rely on each other. Were it not for Japan the growing number of US aircraft carrier units in the Pacific would be more seriously threatened, as US Navy commanders readily concede.

Although Japan may be specifically and permanently bound to refrain from military commitments of any kind in the Pacific island world, the background to the latest Japanese initiative in the region is clearly defence-orientated.

So what does Japan have in mind? First it will be cautious in the amount of aid offered to small island-states. Tokyo has no intention of going straight in at the deep end financially.

It has merely undertaken to contribute $2m toward a UN special programme and a similar sum toward a research project on Hawaii aimed at generating power from differences in temperature between seawater at various levels.

If this project is a success power plants on this basis would be extremely useful for Pacific islands, which have strictly limited power resources.

In the longer term Tokyo has more ambitious plans, with the emphasis in the concept the Japanese Foreign Ministry has drawn up being on development aid.

Japanese development aid to the region has so far been limited. In fiscal 1984/85 it totalled $25m, as against New Zealand and Australian expenditure of $39m and $50m (US) respectively.

Japanese development aid is likely to increase perceptibly before long. Washington is certainly expecting it to do so and will probably miss no opportunity, suitable or unsuitable, of reminding Japan of this commitment.

The importance Japan attaches to the South Pacific and to development aid to the region is apparent from an entirely different angle.

In drawing up aid plans for the South Pacific the Japanese government decided on a number of remarkable technical changes. They can be listed in four sectors.

First, the entire basis of development aid has been amended. Japan used as a rule to wait until it was asked for assistance by a subsequent aid recipient.

In the South Pacific this is now to change, and Japan will make aid offers of its own, so concentrating aid more accurately on regions the Japanese Foreign Ministry rates particularly important.

In a few weeks' time a Japanese delegation is to tour the South Pacific to take a closer look at conditions in the states in question and make propositions.

Second, the Foreign Ministry is taking a keener Japanese hand in aid to the South Pacific than is otherwise the case.

A contributory factor is, of course, the shadow of bribery and corruption that has fallen on JICA, the agency that used to handle aid commitments of this kind.

The Ministry seems determined to rule out any more such opprobrium. A South Pacific working group has been set up and allocated funds in the 1987/88 financial year beginning in April.

Third, phraseology is particularly important in Japan, a country with a keen sense of symbolism. This certainly applies to the term "strategic aid" that has now come into currency.

Japan has always lent development aid of one kind or another but, as US observers note, the term "strategic aid" is new — at least in Japan.

Fourth, the Japanese Foreign Minister clearly said on his Pacific tour that his country would be coordinating its aid with Australia and New Zealand.

So Tokyo is not going it alone, preferring to pool its resources with those of two countries experienced in South Pacific affairs.

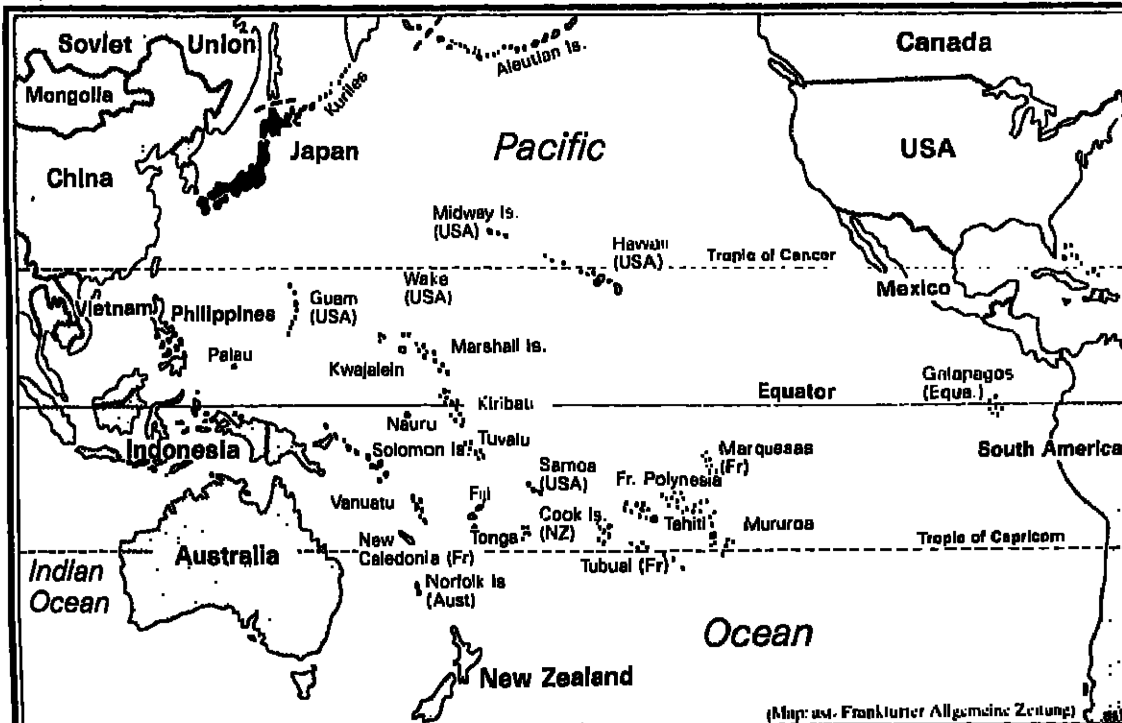
That may be a dictate of common sense, but Japan's intentions seem likely to be more far-reaching. It would be surprising if Tokyo had not reached agreement with Washington on this point.

The former Anzus pact has declined in significance now New Zealand refuses nuclear-powered or armed US warships permission to use its port facilities.

The Anzus decline threatens to leave a vacuum in the Pacific, so a Japanese policy can but be welcomed that aims at closer development policy cooperation with Australia and New Zealand and will thus tend to restore closer ties between New Zealand and the West.

Peter Odrich

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 14 February 1987)



(Map: aus Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung)

■ EUROPE

Channel-ferry disaster: shock at speed of capsize

The design of modern roll-on, roll-off ships is being looked at again following the capsizing of the 8,000-ton British vessel, Herald of Free Enterprise, just outside the Belgian port of Zeebrugge. The death toll seems likely to rise to more than 150. More than 400 were rescued after the ship suddenly rolled over on leaving harbour. Helicopters on alert for a Nato exercise were quickly diverted to the scene. Preliminary evidence was that the bow doors of the ship had not been properly shut. There was also evidence that the ship's computerised stabilising equipment was not working and that water had already been taken on as ballast.

Helicopters were over the capsized ship only six minutes after the alarm was raised at 7.30 p.m. on 6 March.

Just 14 minutes later the first survivors were receiving hospital treatment.

Together with the courageous and selfless action of rescuers and passengers this may explain why 408 passengers survived.

Nevertheless, relief is overshadowed by the alarming fact that a modern ship can capsize within such an extremely short period — there wasn't even time to radio an SOS — and that there were virtually no escape routes for the passengers on board.

At least three committees of inquiry will now be looking into the circumstances.

They will be faced by the question whether the well-being of the passengers had to be sacrificed for the sake of more rapid loading and unloading, lower fuel consumption and other rationalisation measures.

Older seafarers may not even regard the modern roll-on/roll-off "containers" as ships, since they are pretty helpless in their natural element when confronted by the slightest of problems.

The new ships certainly could not repeat the feat achieved by the *Flying Enterprise* in 1952 of braving the stormy seas of the Atlantic for days on end, listing at an angle of 60 degrees.

Two years ago the independent Nautical Institute warned the British Ministry of Transport about the safety risks of the roll-on/roll-off ships, above all the risk of fire, collisions and sabotage.

Yet even this renowned institute did not list the risk which this time led to the death of 135 people: the fact that these "boxes" could simply overturn.

In fact, these ships are predestined for this kind of disaster, since they have virtually no draught (only six metres in the case of the *Herald of Free Enterprise*).

The ship is almost completely flat-bottomed, the centre of gravity is above the waterline, and once the water has found its way into the two car decks there is hardly any way of limiting its movement due to a lack of bulkheads.

What is more, the sides of the ships have almost no passageways up until the upper deck, which makes the use of conventional lifeboats more and more difficult.

Although the *Herald of Free Enterprise*, was also equipped with inflatable rafts there was no time to lower them into the water.

Peter Ford, who became president of the Townsend-Thoresen parent company European Ferries three weeks ago, is convinced that the hatchway doors at the front of the ship will be of key importance in the search for the cause of the disaster.

European Ferries was taken over by Britain's biggest shipping company, the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation (P & O) at the beginning of the year.

There is every indication that the twin hatchway doors were not fully closed.

Normally, the doors are left open until the ship has moved out of the mole in order to let the vehicle exhaust fumes escape.

Without the protection of the harbour's breakwater, however, the smallest wave can push water into the lower decks if the doors are not properly closed.

The closing of the doors cannot be controlled from the bridge; the captain relies on notification by the warrant officer.

Investigators into this catastrophe will have to discover whether the regulations here were observed and whether the ballast tanks, which are supposed to ensure the ship's balance if the cargo weight is unevenly distributed, were in working order.

It is still not clear whether the 36 lorries on board the *Herald of Free Enterprise* were chained up.

If not, the sliding around of these vehicles probably made the ferry overturn even faster despite the fact that the sea was calm.

So far no-one has been able to say for sure whether there were dangerous chemicals on board.

One news agency claims that two lorries were loaded with 111 drums of substances containing cyanide.

Up to now two tons have been fished out of the sea.

Both Belgium's Tranport Minister Hermann de Croo and a spokesman for the shipping company explained that the transportation of dangerous chemicals on these ferries is nothing out of the ordinary.

Although in this particular case these chemicals neither caused nor worsened the catastrophe shipping companies and the authorities can be accused of taking an unnecessary risk.

After all, there are goods-only ferries with no passengers on board.

The tragedy has occurred at a particularly unfavourable moment for the shipping companies operating cross-Channel ferries.

Townsend Thoresen accounts for about 50 per cent of this ferry traffic.

The shipping companies are fighting out their final battle again the Franco-British plan to build a channel tunnel by 1993, which — according to forecasts — will rob the companies of about 75 per cent of passenger and goods traffic.

A major argument in their campaign is the aspect of safety.

It is still not clear whether car passengers will be allowed to stay in their cars during their transportation through the Chunnel.

Regardless of which way this decision goes, however, the reputation of the ferries has taken a serious knock.

Many people are asking what would have happened if the ferry had capsized in deeper water and in the peak season and not on a sandbank.

Or what, for example, would have happened if one of the two "superferries" due to be launched this year had been involved.

These new ferries will weigh 20,000 tdw, i.e. twice the size of the *Herald of Free Enterprise*, and transport 2,300 passengers.

This catastrophe has again confirmed that serious accidents seem to be necessary before technical advances are set in their proper relation to human needs and safety.

Maybe this will now happen in the field of roll-on/roll-off ferry traffic.

Reiner Gatermann

(Die Welt, Bonn, 10 March 1987)

Design is not faulty, says expert

Ships of the car-ferry type like the stricken Herald are not dangerous, says Hartmut Hormann, an engineer who heads the Hamburg-based Germanischer Lloyd company which specialises in the technical safety of shipping. He gave this interview to *Die Zeit*.

Die Zeit: The *Herald of Free Enterprise* filled up with water and capsized within a few minutes on a calm sea. Are roll-on/roll-off ships dangerous? Is there something wrong with their design?

Hormann: No, definitely not. I would like to take up your remark that the ship filled up with water "within a few minutes".

Apparently, a large quantity of water seeped into the roll-on/roll-off deck and reduced stability there via the effect of a free surface area.

It is pretty certain that the ship did not fill up with water at that stage.

Just like any other passenger ship, a roll-on/roll-off ship is also subject to international regulations.

These regulations demand, for example, that at least one, in the case of these ships generally two, adjacent sections below the roll-on/roll-off decks can fill up with water without jeopardising the stability and safety of the ship.

Die Zeit: So you feel that several factors caused the ship to overturn?

Hormann: This can almost certainly be assumed, since — in all probability — an open hatchway door alone cannot lead to such a fatal tragedy.

Die Zeit: What are the other possible reasons?

Hormann: A large quantity of water must have somehow found its way through the open hatchway door onto the roll-on/roll-off deck.

We will have to await more detailed inquiries and, above all, the statements by persons who were on the car deck when the disaster happened before finding out how this could happen.

Die Zeit: These ferries have a very high superstructure. Are they less stable than conventional ships?

Hormann: No. The international regulations on shipping safety also relate to stability.

In every loading phase this stability must be able to ensure that the ship will remain afloat in an upright or almost upright position in cases of assumed

Continued on page 7

■ BUSINESS

From delivery truck to boardroom: the man who fizzed to the top of Coca Cola

DIE WELT

Coca Cola is sold in 155 countries. The Coca Cola Co.'s turnover of well over $8bn a year includes over $6bn in soft drink sales. More than half those sales are outside America.

But the company believes that market opportunities are not exhausted. Developing them is a task of the international division, which is responsible for soft drink sales outside the United States and Canada.

It is headed by Claus M. Halle, senior executive vice-president of the Coca Cola Co. and No. 3 in the corporate hierarchy.

Claus Halle is a German. He sees nothing unusual about world sales of the most American of American products being managed by a non-American.

"We are a very tolerant and cosmopolitan company," he says, "probably more international in our management than any American firm I know."

What occasionally seems to surprise him is that he of all people should have risen to this position.

This impression is confirmed as he tells his remarkable story in his spacious, orderly office on the 24th floor at the Coca Cola head office in Atlanta, Georgia.

His office is expensively furnished in a combination of American colonial style, English country house and German *Gemütlichkeit*.

In retrospect his tale might sound like a straightforward, matter-of-course rise to the top. Thirty-five years ago it was probably beyond anyone's wildest dreams.

By way of explanation, with an almost apologetic note, Halle says: "In those days, when we started again from scratch, as it were, and both companies and markets were growing fast, some things were possible that nowadays would be difficult, to say the least."

Claus Halle was born in Schwelm in the Ruhr in 1927. But he was almost born in India, where his father was in business as an export agent for a number of German firms. He spent his childhood in India.

The family returned to Germany in 1937, first to Lemgo in Westphalia, then to Silesia. World War II was much the same as it was for most youngsters of his age. He left school early, was drafted for public works duty, served as an anti-aircraft helper and, finally, saw active service as a soldier.

He ended the war "on the wrong side of the Elbe," as he puts it. But he made it to the other side and was taken prisoner of war by the Americans.

On his release he went to relatives in Lemgo; his parents were still in the East. He studied for his school-leaving certificate and considered going to university.

He would have liked to study art history, but that was easier said than done in those days, so he first worked as an interpreter for the British military administration.

Then came the 1948 currency reform and Halle, who by then had abandoned any ideas of university he may have had, looked around for his first real job.

He found it in connection with a brown beverage, but not the one that was later to be the hallmark of his career. He started as a clerical worker for Franck & Kathreiner, a manufacturer of *ersatz* coffee, in Neuss, near Düsseldorf.

But promotion was ruled out. All avenues he might have had in mind were blocked by former employees of the firm as they gradually returned from internment as prisoners of war.

So in 1950 he answered a Box No. in a newspaper advertising for sales assistants. The reply came from Coca Cola in Essen, where he started work on 1 October 1950.

What later proved to be a stepping-stone to senior management was a very humble start — as a driver's mate on a Coca Cola truck.

He helped delivery crates of Coke to restaurants and bars, shops, canteens and sportsgrounds. "I saw so much football," he recalls, "that ever since soccer on TV is as much as I can manage."

His first salary cheque was for DM350. "I wasn't half proud of it," he says. He now earns several hundred thousand dollars a year.

After two years as a driver's mate he was promoted; he was now in charge of several trucks.

Two years later he took over as head of a publicity group whose task it was to keep Pepsi at bay, Pepsi Cola having set up in competition in the German market.

Halle was evidently so successful at this job that two years later still, in 1956, still aged under 30, he was appointed Coca Cola sales manager for Germany.

Sales boomed from an annual 5.8 bottles per head in the early 1950s to 26 bottles in 1960 and 70 bottles in 1970, the year Halle left Germany.

Coca Cola's German sales have since increased to over 130 bottles per head.

The German managing director of Coca Cola was Max Keith, an old hand who had worked for the company before the war and helped to relaunch it in the post-war period. Halle, his successor, feels he owes him a great deal.

Keith was a difficult and demanding taskmaster who in Halle's view promoted him just a little too soon at every stage of the proceedings.

In those days he had no visions of the next step up the ladder. He concentrated fully on the task in hand. To this day he sees this approach as so essential that he feels trainee managers would do well to abide by it.

It certainly did him no harm. In 1963 he was appointed head of the International Coca Cola Export Corp. In 1965, still in Essen, he was appointed Central European manager.

His first move came in 1970 when, as president of Coca Cola Europe, he was transferred to London.

He and his wife (they have no children) liked life there, but Coca Cola executives at the Atlanta head office had not forgotten him, so the next move came in 1973.

It took him across the Atlantic to head office, where he became president of the Export Corporation.

Halle now realised that he was likely to be out of Europe for some time. So he sold his home in Essen and bought a 2.5-acre plot on the outskirts of Atlanta.

"That," he gratefully recalls, "was our last move so far." He likes life in America. People are frank and friendly — and proud of having a foreigner as a neighbour and a guest.

His career had still not peaked. He gained further promotion, reaching the top rank as senior executive vice-president in 1981 and taking over as head of the international soft drinks division in 1984.

As always in senior management, he has come by a number of honorary posts, some of which are most demanding. He is, for instance, chairman of the National Council for US-China Trade and an advisory council member of both the International and the German-American Chamber of Commerce.

Despite his remarkable progress in 36 years with Coca Cola Claus Halle cannot be called a colourful personality. He is too factual and concerned with his work for that.

"I never had time to develop hobbies," he says. He is well aware of what he is worth but clearly lacks the extrovert, complacent streak that is often a hallmark of successful executives.

He has no interest in the more flamboyant managerial leisure pursuits such as big game-hunting in far-off parts of the world. He doesn't even play golf.



Claus Halle . . . wanted to study art history. (Photo: Coca Cola)

"When we first arrived in Atlanta 14 years ago," he says, "I was keen on the idea. But golf takes up too much time and my wife didn't really enjoy it." So he abandoned the idea.

Some years ago the Halles bought a weekend cottage on the shores of a nearby lake, plus a roomy motor cruiser. "I enjoy it," he says, "and it's relaxing."

This hobby is partly due to the fact that senior US executives seldom manage to go on vacation. Halle is entitled to six weeks a year but has never managed to get away for more than two.

They haven't even been a complete fortnight, just odd breaks totalling a couple of weeks. But he isn't complaining.

The Halles have not lived in Germany since 1970 and have grown accustomed to the American way of life over the past 14 years in Atlanta, Georgia. But they are still Germans.

That is how they feel and the company has never pressured them to apply for naturalisation papers. Halle even feels Coca Cola are rather proud to have an international management staff.

Their ties with Germany have grown weaker over the years. He still has brothers and sisters in the Federal Republic but his links with the old country are now mostly business.

He still takes a keen interest in what goes on in the Federal Republic, however. He was annoyed to learn, when Germans overseas were given the vote for last January's general election, that he wasn't entitled to vote.

He had been out of the Federal Republic for over 10 years — the cutoff date. "I feel that's most unfair treatment," he says.

In breach of his own golden rule he now occasionally looks ahead to the next stage in his career: retirement.

Retirement age is 65, so he still has five years to go, but as several other senior executives are the same age as he is and he has been at the top longer he doesn't expect to stay with the company for the full five years.

When he retires he and his wife plan to stay in Atlanta but to spend three to four months a year in Germany. They have just bought an apartment in Bad Wiessee, Bavaria.

Does Claus Halle feel a career like his would be possible today? "I don't think so," he admits. But not because the head of Coca Cola Germany couldn't become president of Coca Cola International in Atlanta, Georgia.

Transatlantic promotion is still conceivable, he says, but not, nowadays, promotion from driver's mate to managing director in Germany.

Gerd Brüggemann

(Die Welt, Bonn, 27 February 1987)

Continued from page 6

leakage — i.e. following damage in one of two sections.

Die Zeit: How well-trained are the crews on these ferries?

Hormann: I am convinced that it is fair to assume that the crews on ships of this kind in the countries in question must satisfy a certain minimum standard of qualifications and practical experience.

Of course, every safety concept for a technical construction consists of a combination of built-in safety and proper professional operation of the equipment.

A safety concept can only be successful if these two factors are given.

Die Zeit: Only a few passengers were able to put on their life jackets; lifeboats were not lowered to the water.

Should ships which can sink so fast be at all allowed to transport so many passengers?

Hormann: A capsize of this kind would have occurred just as fast in the case of many other ships.

The actual overturning of the ship takes place in seconds, not minutes.

The safety regulations, however, are generally designed to prevent this from happening.

As everyone knows, there is no guarantee of absolute safety.

Die Zeit: What steps should be taken following the disaster in Zeebrugge?

Hormann: Every accident should be viewed as an opportunity to check whether the previous approach to the problem, as reflected in regulations, is still the best in the light of the information gathered from such an accident.

Such considerations are made both nationally and internationally, but their nature will naturally depend on the specific causes in each case.

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 13 March 1987)

■ MONEY

Combined stock exchange first step in honing Frankfurt's financial edge

Dr Rüdiger von Rosen, chairman of the association of German stock exchanges, says: "We have the strongest currency in the world. We have the largest export volume. But our financial centre, Frankfurt, is under-developed." He was named when the association was formed last November to change all that. "West Germany's involvement in international economic affairs cries out for an extension of the financial sector. That is the only way we can remain competitive."

Everybody who is anybody in money in Germany is in Frankfurt: the Bundesbank, the Big Three trading banks, financial institutions, Germany's most important stock exchange, and a constantly increasing number of foreign banks.

Baron Rüdiger von Rosen, the chairman of the association of German stock exchanges, said: "Forty-two of the top 50 banks in the world have offices in Frankfurt and the others will eventually come."

The Bundesbank has been responsible for making conditions attractive for foreign banks to flood into "Mainhatten." (Frankfurt is on the River Main.)

Foreign banks in West Germany now have almost the same rights as domestic financial institutions.

The country's foreign exchange authorities regard this internationalisation favourably and in different ways have pushed ahead with it.

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

Deutsche Bank spokesman Manfred Körber said: "I doubt if Frankfurt would be such an important financial centre if we had not succeeded in making the deutschemark the second most important reserve currency in the world."

Frankfurt's financial soul is the stock exchange. The association of German stock exchanges has done a lot to improve the situation in Frankfurt since 1986. The reforms introduced were designed to put a stop to the struggles between the eight individual exchanges in the country and bring them together under Frankfurt's leadership so that together they had more clout, without destroying the traditional structure of the regional stock exchanges, stretching from Bremen to Munich.

Von Rosen, formerly a close adviser to Bundesbank president Karl Otto Pöhl, is charged with so directing the activities of the various stock exchanges that it is now possible to talk of "the German stock exchange."

He is also responsible for working on developing trading in securities, and to emphasising the significance of the German stock exchange as opposed to its foreign competitors.

His first success has been that the various exchanges do not publish independently their daily trading figure, produced with varying yardsticks. The association now collects the figures together and issues them as a total. Furthermore the figures are produced in accordance with international practice.

Share purchases and sales are registered individually, every deal is counted twice.

For this reason, and because additional transations have been included in the final figure, at a stroke the figure published for daily trading in West Germany has been doubled.

Frankfurt, regarded as a provincial stock exchange, achieved a turnover of DM160bn a month, a sum similar in volume to London, Europe's top stock exchange.

The "Big Bang" on the London stock exchange last October, the liberalisation of dealing methods on the exchange and the introduction of computerised trading, has caused many large investors in German stocks and shares to trade in London instead of Frankfurt.

The joint German stock exchange will try to attract them back and persuade new customers to come as well.

One reason why stock exchanges all over the world have increased in importance as financial centres is the growth rate in stocks and bonds dealings and the completely new structure of international banking.

Dr Frank Heintzler, responsible for investment banking at Deutsche Bank, said: "In 1981 about 70 per cent of all financing was done by means of credits. In 1986 it was only 20 per cent."

In place of the former bank loans there is now a whole range of stock exchange securities. This has led to the worldwide debt crisis, for unlike credit financing the new form of providing funds is no longer a charge to bank balance sheets.

Financial institutions have their heads above water as regards risk if they have sold a new bond issue to an investor. Instead of depending on annual interest payments banks go for charges in handling a deal in stocks and shares.

The liberalisation of capital markets all over the world released floods of new international bonds, but they were traded only on stock exchanges that were sufficiently large to handle such issues and that were organised and technically set up for such dealings.

According to banking experts the divided German stock exchange situation was badly equipped to compete with London, Luxembourg or even New York. Added to this German banks' competitiveness was endangered.

The "united" German stock exchange in Frankfurt is now well suited to handle international trading, although the exchange turnover tax is still an hindrance to international stock market dealing. This is why to some extent business goes abroad.

International financial centres are not only important for major transactions, but also for domestic financing. For some years now German companies have discovered the road to the stock exchange to float their own shares there as a source of new capital.

There have been an increasing number of companies that have turned to the stock exchange for their capital requirements, from Nixdorf to Porsche, from Puma to Henkel. Companies have also increased their equity on the stock exchanges so as to get hold of fresh capital.

Interest in stock exchange investment has increased, partly due to new investors' expectations of early gains with the shares they own, and by the general upward trend in stocks and shares on exchanges all over the world.

But in comparison with exchanges abroad the upward swing in the Federal Republic lags far behind, as Rüdiger von Rosen and Peter Kytzia, deputy director of the stock exchange department at the Deutsche Bank, said with regret.

Heintzler said that the weak development of the stock exchange over recent weeks meant that small investors had become more cautious. There had also be a reduction in the number of companies going to the stock exchange for finance.

According to Heintzler any number of companies have modified their intentions. In the changed situation they have had to revise the issue prices for their shares downwards with the consequent alterations of what financing they can expect to raise for the company or the owner by going to the stock exchange.

Rüdiger von Rosen's job is to project the Frankfurt exchange as an international stock exchange, and, although West Germans tend to fight shy of the stock market, to make a contribution to increasing interest in stock exchange dealing.

There is a better basis for a wider investing public than before, because in his view the younger generation are more open-minded about taking risks and because many household incomes have reached levels with surplus cash and many savers are putting their money in stocks and shares.

For investors of this type German face-values were too high, so the stock exchange experts commission has suggested that shares should be reduced from a face value of DM50 to five. This would mean that each share should only cost about a tenth of what it costs now.

A share in Daimler-Benz could then be bought for about DM100 instead of DM1,000, the cost until now, for instance, a Siemens share for DM65 instead of DM650 and a share in BASF DM25 instead of DM250.

Rüdiger von Rosen prefers another share denomination, however. He speaks up for the system usual abroad for the face value of a share. Shares do not have a uniform face value on the London stock exchange, for instance. Companies with public quoted shares can fix the face value at their own discretion.

If the price per share was too high, if it exceeded certain market prices, the share denomination could be divided as required, for instance creating three shares from what were once two, or four from one.

It will be some time before either one or the other methods of reducing the face value of shares can be introduced. Rüdiger von Rosen believes that the necessary legislation for this innovation would take at least two years before it were approved.

The question of the face value of shares is not so important for the future as efforts to extend the present two hours the stock exchange is open for business, in view of the enormous increase in trading.

Then in his view it is important to understand in good time the role of the computer in stock exchange dealings and whether computers can to a large extent replace people. He asked: "What will the stock exchange be like in five years' time?" But he has no answer to this.

Hans G. Linder

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 11 February 1987)



■ NATURAL HISTORY

The secrets of the world's greatest ice mass

The Antarctic land-mass, 14 million square kilometres, is about 56 times the size of the Federal Republic.

It is surrounded by over 38 million square kilometres of Antarctic Sea, roughly 20 million square kilometres of which is ice-clad in winter.

The pack ice presents the German research vessel *Polarstern* with no insuperable problems. It was the first ship to carry out according to plan an Antarctic winter expedition taking it through roughly 1,500km of ice at the Greenwich meridian.

With a volume of 28.6 cubic kilometres above sea-level, the Antarctic ranks second in size to Asia as a terrestrial land-mass.

About 90 per cent of the Earth's "everlasting ice" either covers the Antarctic, in layers that in places are over four kilometres deep, or straddle Antarctic waters as pack ice.

This ice reflects such enormous quantities of solar energy back through the atmosphere that the Antarctic plays a much more crucial role than the Arctic in the Earth's climate and climate trends.

Recent research findings have only gone to show how sensitive the balance is.

The same can surely be said of the flora and fauna in Antarctic waters, where the krill, a small shrimp, plays a unique role as the world's "largest biomass" — but not as a future source of food for mankind.

Many research findings have lately indicated that the life cycle of the krill and of fish in these waters is slower than elsewhere.

So annual fishing seasons might well have disastrous consequences for the entire biological balance in the region.

A treaty was initially signed by 12 countries adjacent to or with claims to Antarctic territory on 1 December 1959 in Washington, D.C.

This treaty, since hailed as a model for future conduct of world affairs, paved the way for preservation of living maritime resources and ecologically sound utilisation of the Antarctic's mineral resources.

The Federal Republic of Germany signed the treaty in 1979. It was the 14th signatory. Since 3 March 1981 it has also been a member of the so-called consultative round of Antarctic treaty states.

It consists of countries that have shown special interest in Antarctic research and set up permanent research stations in Antarctica.

The wide range of Antarctic research work carried out by staff of various West German research facilities and coordinated by the Alfred Wegener Institute of Polar and Maritime Research in Bremerhaven must be seen in this treaty context.

It includes the work of the multi-purpose icebreaker and research vessel *Polarstern*, which was taken into service in December 1982.

The *Polarstern* maintains contact with the Georg von Neumayer station on Atka Bay in the north-eastern Wedell Sea and the Wilhelm Filchner station on the Filchner ice shelf, also in the Wedell Sea.

The Filchner station includes three smaller camps on the Antarctic land-mass, the Lillie Marleen Hut near the Lillie glacier and the Gondwana and Eberhardt Drescher stations. The research vessel's Antarctic winter expedition began in May 1986 with a cruise round the Antarctic peninsula, which is about 1,200km long and bordered to the west by the Wedell Sea.

Krill and fish stocks were probed and a riddle solved. It was where krill disappear to in winter.

The answer is that the small Antarctic shrimp, the whale's staple diet, spends the winter grazing on seabed algae and algae immediately beneath the ice.

One of the most surprising findings, says Federal Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber, was that water along the edge of the ice shelf and near the Antarctic coast was the purest in the world.

In summer it is densely enriched with single-cell algae. In winter it is so devoid of life that not even the conventional ultrasonic water movement measuring technique, based on the Doppler effect, can be made to work.

From July to September 1986 the *Polarstern* and its scientific complement looked into the origins of the ice shelf and its effect on the climate and on life processes in the sea.

Important survey work was carried out, it being the first time scientists had ever been able to investigate on the spot what had previously only been visible on satellite photographs in visible light or microwave range.

The various possible interpretations of satellite photographs have now been replaced by detailed and exact scientific knowledge gleaned on the spot.

From October to December 1986 the ship sailed closer to the Filchner ice shelf, having been entrusted with supplying and provisioning the Neumayer station and being due to return to Bremerhaven in April 1987.

The Filchner shelf forms a kind of bottleneck controlling the outflow of west Antarctic inland ice. It plays a crucial role in the Antarctic climate.

Just before the *Polarstern* arrived on the scene, an enormous section of ice shelf nearly 200km long and 100km wide had broken off and broken up into three large ice floes.

It was the first major movement in the Filchner ice shelf after decades of peace and quiet. But this phenomenon was by no means the only riddle Bremerhaven scientists were determined to examine more closely in connection with the Antarctic's role as the world's ice box.

No-one knows, for instance, why ice-free areas as large as the North Sea and known as polynyas are formed in the Antarctic pack ice belt.

As the Antarctic is so far removed from areas beset by environmental pollution an idea that would clearly seem to make sense is to check heavy metal and chlorinated hydrocarbon pollution in seals and birds.

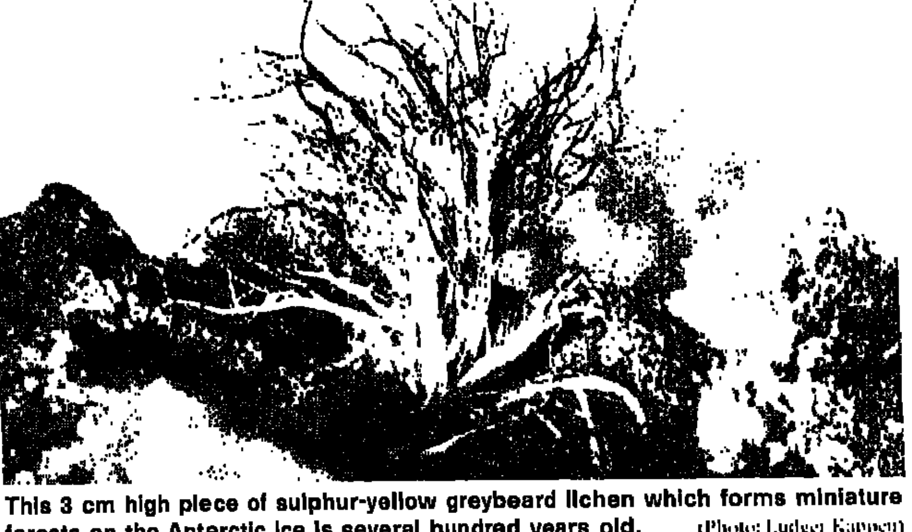
Scientists must then consider whether these toxins are ingested with their food or enriched from the water they drink.

Numerous meteorite finds in the ice indicate the benefit that is likely to be derived from extra-terrestrial research in the Antarctic, especially in connection with the history of the solar system.

So does the fact that one tonne of Antarctic ice contains roughly 150 milligrams of cosmic dust.

Rolf H. Simen

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 7 March 1987)



This 3 cm high piece of sulphur-yellow greybeard lichen which forms miniature forests on the Antarctic ice is several hundred years old. (Photo: Ludger Kappen)

Resourceful flora reveal their Antarctic survival strategy

Lichen on the ice-cold Antarctic rocks has devised the same survival strategy as vegetation in the hot Sahara sand: it forms oases.

Plants in the Antarctic cold suffer from the same problem as vegetation in the arid desert wastes. They are short of water.

At the South Pole, as in the Sahara, they only stand a chance of survival by establishing niches of favourably humid small-scale climate.

Botanist Ludger Kappen, head of the Kiel University department of polar ecology, has studied on several Antarctic expeditions how plants adapt to extreme cold.

The land of everlasting ice at the South Pole is not as hostile to life as might at first glance appear to be the case. Kappen estimates the ice-free areas where vegetation could flourish to roughly correspond in size to the Federal Republic of Germany.

They include islands off the western Antarctic, many coastal areas and

Süddeutsche Zeitung

mountain peaks that emerge from the ice mass that covers most of the Antarctic continent."

Only two varieties of more highly developed vegetation are found in the Antarctic. They are Colobanthus crassifolius, a poppy, and Deschampsia antarctica, a kind of grass. Neither survive south of the 68th parallel.

On rough rock surfaces closer to the South Pole the only survivors are moss, algae and lichen.

Lichen, a symbiotic combination of fungus and algae, are hardy, unassuming and largely insensitive to frost.

Some varieties of lichen even survive a bath in liquid nitrogen at temperatures of -195° C. Anything up to 200 varieties of lichen are estimated to exist in the Antarctic.

The chief obstacle to their further progress at the South Pole is, oddly enough, the aridity, not the cold. They need an environment with a minimum of precipitation and humidity to survive.

That is why they avoid rock surfaces exposed to the sunlight. They are sunny but dry. Heat does lichen no good if they are unable to activate their metabolism for lack of water.

So they nestle in niches and clefts and form small oases between rocks where their filigree can establish a milder, relatively balanced small-scale climate.

They catch snowflakes. The snow melts more readily on the darker pigmentation of the lichen. The plants can fill themselves to the brim with vital humidity.

Kappen works on the assumption that Antarctic oasis-dwellers are capable of biological activity for several weeks a year during the summer.

Usnea sphaculata, a sulphur-yellow variety of greybeard lichen, is a frequent oasis-dweller. In quantity it looks like a miniature forest, a coppice of bonsai trees.

Greybeard lichen is only a few centimetres tall but live to be as old as oaks and grow incredibly slowly in the Antarctic. Kappen says they put on an estimated 0.5 grams of dry weight in 200 to 300 years.

With this lichen the Kiel botanist achieved a success rare outside the laboratory in recording photosynthesis at low sub-zero temperatures.

Greybeard lichen can harness solar energy at temperatures of as low as -10° C. It can even assimilate when it appears to be frozen cold.

Buellia and Lecidae survive even greater cold and even more arid conditions in the dry valleys of South Victoria Land.

They crawl into sandstone pores and use the intensive sunlight to establish an environment in which they can survive. Botanists call this category of lichen cryptoendolithic, meaning they hide in stone.

Water and, possibly, their excreta dissolve iron from the edge of the rock.

This iron covers the rock in a brown crust — a dark surface on which the limited snowfall melts. The molten snow seeps into the pores, filling the lichen's "water tanks."

This brown crust also seems to ensure that the sandstone is up to 15° C warmer than its surroundings.

So the lichen, living in a bleached area about one centimetre deep beneath the crust, leads a damp and fairly warm life.

Bernhard Borgeest

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 9 March 1987)

■ **BOOKS**

Compiling history from the records of Everyman

Mannheimer MORGEN

Author Walter Kempowski is collecting biographies of Germans to write a history of Germany's past 100 years. He advertises for information in the weekly *Die Zeit.*

Every day, the postman bring packages of documents. His task began in 1980. He has letters, diaries, reports of escapes from East to West Germany and memoirs.

So far 2,000 people have supplied him with information and he has about 600 photo albums with about 150,000 photos of daily life.

History can only be understood as the sum of individual experiences, Kempowski says. With this in mind, he is assiduously working on his nine-volume *Chronik des deutschen Bürgertums* (A chronicle of the German bourgeoisie).

His idea is to amplify on biographical novels he has already written (one called *Tadellöser + Wolff* brought him to fame) with answers to questions such as "Did you ever see Hitler?" and "Did you know about the concentration camps?".

"I conceive the whole work as a mosaic of the past 100 years of German history," he said.

Much of his information is being published separately as autobiographies: two have already been published and it is expected that 24 will eventually be published.

A year ago Knaus Verlag, Munich, published the first of these, *Meine sieben Kinder und der Lauf der Welt,* written by 80-year-old farmer's wife Irene Zacharias.

Knaus are also just about to publish Helmut Fuchs' book *Wer spricht von Siegen? Unfreiwillige Jahre in Rußland,* describing life, war and imprisonment between 1945 and 1949, seen from the viewpoint of a soldier.

Kempowski is modelling his work on three writers. French writer Honoré de Balzac (1799-1850) presented in his incomplete 40-volume masterpiece *Comédie humaine* a rich picture of events, true to life, with accurate descriptions of local situations and characters.

Emile Zola (1840-1902), was a leading exponent of French naturalism. In his 20-volume novel *Die Royan-Macquardt* he unfolded the story of a family of the Second Empire with academic attention to contempory society.

British Nobel Prize-winner John Galsworthy (1867-1933) presented a picture of the materialistic Victorian middle classes in his cycle of novels *The Forsyte Saga.*

"I am anxious to bring history to life from below," Kempowski explained. "Schoolbooks describe bombing raids. But history is how a woman came through the war with four children, a sick grandparent and her husband at the front."

History can only be understood as the sum of individual experiences, he said. He has already made his own and those of his family known in novels such as *Aus großer Zeit, Schöne Aussichten, Tadellöser + Wolff, Uns geht's ja noch gold, Ein Kapital für sich* and *Herzlich willkommen.*

He said: "There is a lot I cannot describe from my own viewpoint, because I did not experience it." So he began to collect others' experiences.

He began in the 1960s when he polled his fellow citizens, and got answers, for his *Immer so durchgemogelt. Erinnerungen an unsere Schulzeit,* with questions such as: "Did you see Hitler?" and "Did you know about the concentration camps?"

He said that from these fundamental experience material emerged that cried out to be systematically catalogued in archives.

He said that there were some old people he would have liked to question further but they were dead.

"Writing is a self-healing process which enables people to assimilate their anxieties, doubts, physical injury and emotional hurt," Kempowski said. That is why in war and times of crisis people are compelled to write biographically, material that is of value for archives.

Men mainly wrote about the First World War. Reports about the Second come predominantly from women, who suffered bombing raids, who had to care for relatives, do compulsory duties and then there was flight and refugee status and finally the tough life during the reconstruction period in West Germany.

They were often alone. Many of the later documents involve personal crises such as divorce or imprisonment.

Kempowski also collects material dealing with civic history, company histories, brochures dealing with local his-



Writing is a self-healing process, says Walter Kempowski (Photo: Sven Simon)

tory and other documents that throw light on everyday life, such as identification cards, bank books or even old menus.

His oldest document is a family album that began in 1673 and was kept up to 1876.

His precision for filing things away and his penchant for details are of advantage in his mania for collecting things, and are all part of his literary work.

He has card-indexed his collection. A team of biographical research workers from Hagen University are interested in evaluating his archives.

Kempowski said he was delighted with the interest shown by the Hagen University people. But generally the true worth of such an archives will not be known until for 50 or 60 years.

Annegret Witt-Barthel

(Mannheimer Morgen, 3 March 1987)



Neueingerichter und vielverbesserter
Abentheurlicher
SIMPLICISSIMUS
Das ist:
Beschreibung deß Lebens eines seltzamen Vaganten/ genant Melchior Sternfels von Fuchshaim / wie / wo und welcher gestalt Er nemlich in diese Welt kommen / was er darin gesehen / gelernet / erfahren und außgestanden / auch warum er solche wieder freywillig quittiret hat.
Überauß lustig/ und männiglich nützlich zulesen.
An Tag geben
Von
German Schleifheim
von Sulsfort
[illegible]

Refurgence of intereft . . . firft edition cover of *Simpliciffimuf*, 1669. (Photo:

The ageless, singular fascination of a Grimmelshausen hero

The Wilhelms University in Münster has become an international centre for research into the life and works of Hans Christoffel von Grimmelshausen, more than 300 years after his death in 1676.

Grimmelshausen, born in Hesse in 1625, published in 1669 his five-volume picaresque romance, largely autobiographical, *Der abenteuerliche Simplicissimus.*

The head of the centre is Professor Günther Weydt, a Germanist and literary historian. Since he took up his post at Münster University in 1960 he has given considerable attention to the literature of the Baroque period, particularly Grimmelshausen, and his masterpiece on the adventures of "Simplicissimus Teutsch" during the turmoil of the Thirty Years War.

Three hundred years or more after it was first published interest in this picaresque novel is still considerable. For more than 200 years the author's name was little known. Now experts discuss at length the meaning, the realities and literary background of his work.

The singular fascination that Grimmelshausen and his hero "Simplicissimus" arouses has not only lasted for centuries but has spread beyond the confines of the German language.

There is now a Chinese translation (Report from Tölpwl Si-Muh) and Professor Weydt can say of the work with full justification that it is part of world literature.

Professor Weydt and his colleagues had been able to demolish the widespread view that Grimmelshausen was a gifted, but uneducated village poet and philosopher, coming from the Black Forest.

Weydt has established that Grimmelshausen turned to a considerable variety of literary sources for his novel and was anything but a backwoodsman.

Professor Weydt said: "The allegedly self-taught and lonely village magistrate must have had many opportunities to be in touch with important people of his times, who put books at his disposal and introduced him to to a public that was receptive to his writing."

Weydt and his fellow research workers are to be thanked for setting up an extensive exhibition about Grimmelshausen and his times in Münster in 1976, opened on the 300th anniversary of the writer's death, and for organising an international symposium on Grimmelshausen and his work.

The exhibition and symposium resulted in the establishment of a Grimmelshausen Society, headquartered in Münster.

Under Weydt's presidency this society has become an international association including among its members many well known Germanists and just ordinary people interested in the German seventeenth century writer.

The society's aim is to promote research into Grimmelshausen's works and his times and it sponsors the regular exchange of knowledge and research on Grimmelshausen and his relationship to Baroque literature.

The society's activities include a ranging symposiums on the writer, the next is scheduled to take place in Marburg this summer, and to produce an annual volume under the title "Simplicissimus -- papers of the Grimmelshausen Society."

Last year, the tenth anniversary year of the foundation of the Grimmelshausen Society, was a special year in the society's history.

Professor Weydt, 80, declined to stand for the presidency of the society again and passed over the office to his young Swiss colleague Rolf Tarot, professor of German studies at Zürich University.

In recognition of his considerable contribution to the society Weydt was made an honorary president.

Münster University will continue to be an important centre for research into Baroque literature, particularly the works of Grimmelshausen.

Current research shows that Grimmelshausen is a productive source for research into interpretations of later German literature.

The Münster Germanist Dr Klaus Haberkamm has shown that *Simplicissimus* had its influence on the works of Günter Grass, "a latter-day Grimmelshausen from the backwoods of Poland."

Even for Professor Weydt all is still not known about Grimmelshausen, despite the intensive research that has been done on him and his works. He re-

Continued on page 11

■ **FILMS**

The contradiction-cancelling career of Heinz Rühmann

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Heinz Rühmann, German film star par excellence, celebrated his 85th birthday at the beginning of this month.

His hair is thinner, the wrinkles round his eyes are now permanent, his clear voice is now rougher that it used to be.

To the public at large, however, he has a different image from his films that are so much a part of West German television diet. In his films the "true" Rühmann appears, the character who, since the 1930s has been the German public's darling, since his film *Die drei von der Tankstelle.*

The "true" Rühmann implies the character who smiled and laughed and made people laugh, who appeared in a whole gallery of Rühmann roles.

Rühmann is comical just because in his roles he had to see through the difficulties of a situation outlined briefly and generally overcome it.

He did not sink into the swamp of reality — as *Quax, der Bruchpilot* (1941) he landed in a pond and remained jolly.; as a waiter with a tendency to swindling in *Die Umwege des schönen Karl* (1937), recently unearthed for television, after cruel set-backs returns to his bride, whom he had left.

Even in the *Feuerzangenbowle* (1944) one of his most ridiculous but enjoyable films, Rühmann rescues his marriage when pretending to the sixth-former Pfeiffer he gets away from the Gymnasium in good time.

Rühmann is also a clown, and as a clown he strives for a bearable life and so it is only a minor matter who directed the film.

This is true for the roles that Rühmann played in the main, be it *Der Mustergatte* (which he performed in the theatre more than two thousand times and in a film in 1937), be it *Der Gasmann* (1941) or the minor official Buchsbaum in Ladislao Vajdas' film *Ein Mann geht durch die Wand,* (1959) who drives bald-headed Hubert von Meyerink, the personification of evil, into madness.

This is true for the films themselves. Their tendency is towards conciliation with the situation as it is, to classification of individuals in a small lower middle-class world.

They console and communicate to people that one only had to be steadfast, faithful, industrious and also perhaps just a little smart, to be able to survive in one way or another.

These nice, harmless films of calculated comedy will just make people shrug their shoulders and turn away, people who have not been able to adjust to society, which in Rühmann's films was depicted as upright and worthy. Or perhaps, despite all, will they not feel just a little nostalgia?

Rühmann does not make the comic anarchistic, as is to be seen in American films from Charlie Chaplin to Jerry Lewis. Even the crooked manoeuvres that Rühmann and Hans Albers got up to in *Der Mann, der Sherlock Holmes war* (1937) in which they acted as if they were the famous detective couple, Holmes and Watson, ended without any disturbance to the order of things.

This is not because the film, like so many of Rühmann's greatest successes, was shot during the Nazi period in which Propaganda Minister Goebbels demanded that cinema entertainment should make the German people compliant and contented.

It is no accident that much later, in 1960, in the filming of *Schwejk,* he played the famous character from the novel, Jaroslav Harseks, gently and mildly with considerable cunning.

He did just the same in the film version of Carl Zuckmayer's *Hauptmann von Köpenick,* directed by Helmut Käutner. Rühmann as Shoemaker Voigt is also the oppressed victim rather than as a person in revolt.

In a certain way he also is one of the modest Rühmann heros, who comes to terms with life and no more.

It is not a question of artistic quality but one of temperament and character.

Rühmann's heros were not revolutionary. This made them suitable Nazi entertainment films for appeasing and for deflecting all political questions and even shocking wartime experiences.

They were absolutely unmilitary and non-committal casualness made them unsuitable for propaganda exploitation. In this respect Rühmann was an actor bent on survival. In his later years he always spoke out for peace.

There is no contradiction here that he towards the end of the 1930s he divorced his Jewish wife so that she could emigrate to Switzerland and so save her life.

Soon afterwards he married the actress Hertha Feiler and was happily married until her death in 1970. Or that in the Hollywood film *Ship of Fools* he played the part of a patriotic German Jew, who could not believe in the Nazis' barbarism.

Or that in his last television film, *Ein Zug nach Manhattan* he played the part of a Jewish cantor who was alienated from God because of his experiences of the world's misery.

Rühmann cancelled out contradictions, not without sentimentality and naivity. In some way this continues with his films. After had post-war times, when a film production swiftly went broke, he was able to pull himself up again, just as the Germans were doing in the Economic Miracle.

Didn't make the comic anarchistic . . . Heinz Rühmann (Photo: Sven Simon)

German does not mean the indefatigability of struggling further. German is also the inclination to the idyllic, to the embodiment of the non-revolutionary.

Rühmann is intimate to us for god reasons, a good friend. His films are a success for good reasons. Rühmann, the son of an Essen hotel owner is something more than other great German stars such as Hans Albers, Heinrich George, Emil Jannings or later Borsche and Karlheinz Böhm. He is one of us, a phenomenon of this century.

Rainer Hartmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 7 March 1987)

Continued from page 10

cently astonished the literary world by drawing parallels between Homer's *Odyssey* and *Simplicissimus,* for Weydt further evidence of the inexhaustible sources of learning in Grimmelshausen, misunderstood for so long.

People interested in literature can see for themselves the astonishing parallels between Grimmelshausen and Homer for the Grimmelshausen Society has published a special facsimile edition of the first German translation of the *Odyssey,* the work of Simon Schaidenreisser, dating from 1537.

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 5 March 1987)

Berlin festival takes time off to look at two retrospectives

Two retrospectives were presented at this year's Berlin Film Festival: 19 films looking back at the work of Jean-Louis Barrault and Madeleine Renaud; and 16 films by Rouben Mamoulian, made between 1929 and 1957.

Who will ever forget Baptiste, the melancholic Pierrot in *Les Enfants du Paradis* and his unfortunate love? Jean-Louis Barrault created a film legend in this role. He brought to post-war film clubs the dream of a poetic cinema art that has not lost its moving beauty even yet.

The retrospective of the two French players includes many melodramas from the 1930s that have not been seen in Germany so far.

Madeleine Renaud was already well-known for her performance in *Helène* (1936) when she first made a film with Barrault.

Director Jean Benoit-Levy described Barrault to her as: "He is rather unkempt and does not shave, but he has a beautiful smile."

Renaud replied: "Then sign him up. He will have to wash himself and come up to the mark. We shall soon get on well together."

They not only made films togther they got married. Madeleine Renaud made films with Jean Gabin, Charles Vanel and Pierre Brasseur. With Marcel Carné and Jacques Prévert Barrault made *Drôle de drame* in 1937 and *Les Enfants du Paradis.*

After the war the couple set up the "Compagnie Renaud-Barrault," a theatre group that had nothing to do with the cinema.

Barrault acted in Max Ophül's *La Ronde* (1953) and played the main part in Jean Renoir's version of the Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde story in *Le Testament de Dr Cordelier.*

Rouben Mamoulian had already filmed the story in 1931 with Frederic March, a production that made film history.

The second retrospective permits interesting comparisons with a few little known classics of the American cinema.

Rouben Mamoulian was never a darling of the art film world, his themes and style were too unequal.

He was born in Tiflis in 1899, went to the US when he was very young and was

Hannoversche Allgemeine

for almost 30 years very successful on Broadway.

Between 1929 and 1957 he shot only 16 films, a relatively small body of work, that is being shown complete in Berlin.

But Mamoulian was not a typical Hollywood producer. He maintained his independence, and for years avoided contracting himself to a specific studio.

Mamoulian, the theatre director, was an innovator in films. In his first film, *Applause,* made in 1929, he moved the camera about and experimented with dual sound-tracks.

In *Becky Sharp,* (1935) a film version of William Makepeace Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* he used the new-found technicolour effect, which had until then not been seen in the cinema.

Mamoulian had a film curiosity and a firm hand with actors, so that it is not surprising he made many films with film star greats of his period: Marlene Dietrich, Rita Hayworth and Greta Garbo, who had her first film role in his *Queen Cristina,* made in 1933.

He made a gangster film with Cary Grant on a idea by Dashiell Hammett, *City Streets.* It was said that he was the only one who presented Al Capone as he really was.

He discovered William Holden for his boxing film, *Golden Boy,* made in 1939.

Mamoulian used film conventions but he applied them with originality and a feeling for style. Even when the themes of his films were trivial he remained a glittering stylist.

The genre films he made showed that he had a sure touch for dramatic irony. At first glance *The Mark of Zorro* seemed to be a typical clock and dagger film, but Mamoulian made of it a witty play for a studio theatre and let Tyrone Power, the black avenger of the underdog, fight with a quick tongue and a sharp sword.

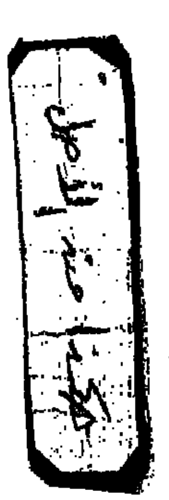
Mamoulian's ironic elegance found its ideal form in the musical. Maurice Chevalier has never been seen to better advantage than in *Love me tonight* (1932) where he begins to sing in mid-sentence.

The same happened in *Silk Stockings* with Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse, made in 1957.

In this re-make of Ernst Lubitsch's *Ninotchka,* the Russian cultural commissar is attracted to the technicolour heaven of decadent Paris, which she can no more resist than the public could the director's charm.

Peter-Paul Huth

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 6 March 1987)



■ MEDICINE

Foundations shake as radical doctors are elected to medical council

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The wind of change has swept the columns of the *Berliner Ärzteblatt*, the 100-year-old monthly journal of the Berlin Medical Council.

Pharmaceutical adverts are no longer to be placed on the front page.

Early this month the first "surgery" was held at the council's city-centre offices on Steinplatz. For five hours anyone interested in changes in the health sector could discuss their ideas, in person or over the telephone, with a member of the chamber's board.

These are the first signs of change now the first "left-wing" doctor has been elected president of a German medical council.

Conservative members of the city's medical profession were well aware that bitter pills lay ahead.

Before the elections they voiced warnings about the risk of left-wing groups gaining a majority and issued leaflets saying their organisation looked like being taken over by trade union officials.

Campaigning was fierce, to say the least. But, as far as conservatives were concerned, in vain. Ellis Huber, 37, head of a charitable association's health department, was elected president by a clear majority.

Huber does not belong to any political party but he was the Alternative List's nominee to head the health department in the borough of Zehlendorf.

In the medical council poll he headed the slate submitted by a group including ÖTV, the public service and transport workers' union, the influential Marburger Bund, whose members are mainly hospital doctors, the *Gesundheitsladen* (Health Shop) movement and IPPNW, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

Just over two thirds of the group's membership consists of hospital and health department doctors; the remainder are general practitioners and specialists.

A left-wing medical council president is something new; so are the four women members of the 11-member board, including vice-president Rieke Alten, 41, a hospital doctor.

The new men and women at the helm of the Berlin Medical Council stand for a change from traditional group interests to an approach including environmental issues and social medicine.

As soon as the votes were counted and the results announced fireworks were lit and delighted delegates in corduroy trousers and sweaters rushed to congratulate Huber and Alten.

Appearances were not deceptive. The pin-striped suit brigade of medical traditionalists were clearly outnumbered by the tennis-shoe generation.

Huber's group polled 48.4 per cent, or little short of an absolute majority. Its candidates were elected to 45 seats in the 91-member chamber representing about 11,000 Berlin doctors.

The clear loser was the list representing senior surgeons, who are now represented by 13 members, as against 23, while other groups of medical practitioners have 19, 8 and 4 members respectively.

Single members were elected to represent the children's doctors and the Free University.

Traditional representatives of the medical profession have been defeated gradually in Berlin. Four years ago the Health List Huber now heads polled 38 per cent.

It formed a coalition with a smaller group of general practitioners, with GP Peter Krein as president and Health List delegate Helmut Becker as vice-president.

But the coalition only lasted a year. Conservatives succeeded in persuading enough members of the smaller group to switch allegiance to oust Becker.

The *Ärzte-Zeitung* noted in retrospect that this was a Pyrrhic victory. This move made its mark on young and committed members of the profession.

Before elections to the board began, the spokesman for the senior surgeons promised loyal and active collaboration with the new board.

Later, when all its candidates bar one, GP Hans Herrmann, had failed to secure election, the conservatives



Heading the tennis-shoe revolution. Ellis Huber. (Photo: Berlin Medical Cou.

changed their tune. They applied for a halt to the voting and spent minutes trying to persuade Herrmann to stand down and make it an all left-wing board. He refused to do so.

The new majority then announced its intention of extending traditional policies to include an active approach to health.

It hopes its example will be followed elsewhere when it calls for healthier environmental and living conditions. It suggests scrapping fees paid to doctors for issuing prescriptions and merely refunding their expenses in respect of paper and ballpoint pens.

As Ellis Huber puts it: "A good doctor is one who issues as few prescriptions as possible."

The new chamber president, who is paid DM2,500 a month to cover expenses, plans to take a more critical look at pills and drops and to launch publicity campaigns.

He is thinking in terms of billboards and supplements in Berlin newspapers

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Big claims being made for newly unveiled videotex system

A videotex data bank for doctors and chemists with a capacity of half a million pages, or 21 million data, has been unveiled in Stuttgart.

It has been set up by the Naturmed Institute in Esslingen, near Stuttgart, in conjunction with Btx Südwest Datenbank of Stuttgart and Siemens AG of Munich as system organisers and equipment manufacturers.

Südwest Datenbank have contributed a retrieval system designed to ensure swift and easy access to information for doctors and pharmacists.

Naturamed, Südwest Datenbank and Siemens hope the Multitel videotex telephone, complete with keypad and monitor screen, will lead to widespread use of the system.

A user device for which space can be found on any desk, it is laid on by the Bundespost, or PTT, for a monthly rental of DM48 (the conventional no-extras telephone rental charge is DM27).

Südwest Datenbank manager Peter Mahnkopf says the role of videotex must be seen as that of providing access to computer systems and data banks.

The link is essential in providing swift access to data, retrieving data in dialogue and direct data processing.

Eric Danke, head of the Btx (videotex) department at the Federal Posts and Telecom Ministry, said at the Stuttgart presentation that *Bildschirmtext*, German videotex, was better than its reputation.

There were over one and a half million videotex subscribers and nearly half a million calls were handled in January alone. The system could only be put to good use, however, if useful information was provided that saved time and money at work and home.

H. M. Abele, head of the Naturamed project and manager of the Esslingen institute, is convinced his data bank will be of use to all branches of the medical profession, especially as it can readily be extended for use by, say, the drug industry.

It is, he says, designed by people with practical experience with practical use in mind. It has taken years to prepare and will shortly be unveiled in all German cities.

Information available includes an emergency medicine programme, prescription suggestions, drug specifications, special address lists, lists of doctors and specialised literature.

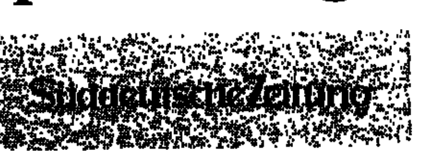
Doctors and pharmacists have had videotex access to data banks for some time. Data systems are run by the Pharmacists' Association and a pharmacists' cooperative that runs a videotex ordering system for members.

Alice Loyson-Siemering

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 2 March 1987)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

The chemicals industry: do its plusses match its plundering of nature?



The chemicals industry in Germany employs 530,000 and has an annual turnover of nearly DM150bn. It is the country's second-largest export industry. Half its turnover comes from exports, which grossed a profit of DM9bn last year, DM4.5bn after tax.

Chemicals also involves handling substances most of which are toxic and must be capable of chemical reaction because that is what they are supposed to do.

Along the Rhine, in Germany alone, every year three million tonnes of chlorine compounds, 160,000 tonnes of pesticides, over one million tonnes of PVC, half a million tonnes of methanol and 1.5 million tonnes of paint and thinner a year are manufactured.

In 1985 one million tonnes a year of organic chemicals biodegradable to a strictly limited extent flowed down the Rhine and over the Dutch border into Holland.

Then came 31,000 tonnes of ammonia, 28,000 tonnes of phosphorus, 3,840 tonnes of heavy metal and 3,000 tonnes of chlorinated hydrocarbons, including at least 40 tonnes of nerve poison, according to the Hamburg newsweekly *Der Spiegel*.

The public pays for the way we handle chemicals. Treatment of polluted ground water to make it fit to drink is a case in point.

R. Zwintz of the Bavarian environmental protection department has estimated the extra cost of water treatment in 1984 due to chlorinated hydrocarbon pollution to have been DM1bn.

Lutz Wicke of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, Berlin, estimates the damage that can be costed caused by pollution of rivers and lakes, coastal and ground water at DM17.6bn a year.

This conservative estimate is a figure he says is the minimum cost with which this pollution saddles the German economy.

The German chemicals industry says it invested just over DM3.9bn in 1984 in environmental protection measures of its own.

What cannot be biodegraded in the rivers or fails to settle as sediment flows down into the North Sea and the Baltic.

The Federal Research and Technology Ministry says the coastal mud-flats where North Sea fish breed are in an extremely dangerous state due to heavy metal and chlorinated hydrocarbon pollution.

In some places oxygen has been found to no longer exist in deeper waters not far out to sea. The Ministry's North Sea report says this "writing on the wall" must be taken seriously.

Life ceases to exist in water where oxygen is no longer present, and this may happen anywhere, at any time and on a larger scale with much more serious repercussions.

The report concludes that: "The richest countries in the world ought to be able to avoid taking their surrounding eco-systems to the end of their tether in pursuit of their economic and social interests."

About 250 million tonnes a year of garbage and waste pile up in the Federal Republic, including four million tonnes of highly toxic "special waste," most of which is now exported but for decades was dumped anywhere that was handy. The Berlin EPA says clearing old waste dumps will cost, at a fairly accurate estimate, DM17bn in the next 10 years.

Wicke says the total "costable" soil damage in the Federal Republic amounts to DM5.2bn a year. This figure is, naturally, a rough estimate — but a cautious one.

Intensive soil treatment using largely mineral fertilisers and pesticides is essential if farm acreage is to produce high crop yields.

The result is largely surplus production that is stockpiled at great expense and in many cases eventually "denatured" at equally substantial expense, butter being converted into soap, for instance.

Agricultural chemicals increasingly find their way into water resources, first rivers and lakes, then ground water.

Nitrates from fertilisers are the first signs of chemical pollution, soon followed by pesticides. The latest ceilings are already exceeded in many areas.

Water is a foodstuff to which there is no alternative. Changes in the composition of ground water take decades to occur — and are equally slow to be remedied or reversed.

Separation of crop farming and animal husbandry is a main cause of this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Animal husbandry in the form of factory farming relies on imports of low-cost fodder from Third World and other countries. Without inexpensive fodder it would be uneconomic.

As Karlheinz Quirbach of the Rhineland-Palatinate chamber of agriculture puts it:

"Animal husbandry can only fulfill fundamental ecological requirements if it is related by nature and extent to the land and location.

"That is the only way in which material cycles can be more or less stabilised. As long as the eco-system and the very basis of life appear less valuable than some absurd concept of freedom we will continue to produce, with fodder from somewhere or other, liquid manure we have to dispose of somewhere or other.

"We have stopped calling this a sin even though it is theft: larceny of air, water and nature.

"Everyone is to blame who belongs to a profession that lives from nature yet is determined to earn an income comparable to industrial earnings. "The blame also lies with those who have never looked a cow in the mouth yet have pored over one book after another."

Over 30,000 tonnes of pesticides, roughly 1.3 million tonnes of nitrogen-based mineral fertiliser and 800,000 tonnes of nitrogenous stable manure a year are produced by German farmers today.

Cereal yields have doubled and potato yields been increased by 20 per cent since 1950 — at a price.

The price has been a 400-per-cent increase in nitrogen used and a nearly threefold increase in pesticide spread or sprayed.

Pesticides are devised to destroy animals and plants. For centuries, until the end of World War II, between 2,800 and 3,000 animal species flourished in Central European fields and meadows.

They included between 2,300 and 2,500 varieties of invertebrates and were closely interlinked with flora in fields, meadows and hedgerows.

On average 12 species, in some cases many more, "live" on a single variety of weed, says Kiel ecologist and entomologist Berndt Heydemann.

He has closely studied changes in agricultural eco-systems for over 30 years, including for instance the effects of pesticides drifting to the edges of fields and meadows.

"The disappearance of the meadow snapweed and other varieties of centaurea," he says, "has meant the demise of 105 species that flourished in hedgerows."

The disappearance of galium or bedstraw (Galium mallugo) has resulted in the demise of 125 plant-eating varieties of animal life.

Then there are the many varieties of parasite that depend on these species. The disappearance of fern from hedgerows has meant the demise of a further 60 species of animal and 85 species of parasite.

The exodus of the humble mugwort (Artemisia vulgaris) has meant curtains for a further 134 species.

The regional extinction of a species can be compared, in its repercussions for eco-systems, to global extinction, Heydemann says.

Over 80 per cent of flora and fauna species are so interdependent that the disappearance of the one promptly leads, in the area affected, to that of the other.

The greatest genetical variety is indispensable if evolution is to continue and life is to adjust to changing environmental conditions. Man-made extinction of flora and fauna, even regionally, is thus a threat to life itself.

The ability to manufacture artificial dyestuffs led to the transition from small firms to chemical corporations.

IG Farben, a corporation set up in Germany after the First World War, is a case in point. It was the predecessor of today's Big Three: Bayer, BASF and Hoechst.

The A in BASF, short for Badische *Anilin*- und Soda-Fabriken, is a reminder of how important dyestuff manufacture was in the origins and development of the German chemical industry.

The bright colours of the industrialised world are a result of modern chemicals. But they are only one side of the coin. Artificial dyestuffs, paints and solvents are for the most part highly toxic.

Pigments are still based on heavy metals: lead, cadmium, chromium and zinc. They find their way into the biosphere via wear and tear and garbage incineration.

Solvents evaporate totally (which is what they are designed to do), including the chlorinated hydrocarbons that contribute toward the atmospheric hothouse trend and are, regardless of any other consideration, toxic.

The Berlin EPA says an estimated 120,000 tonnes of organic solvent a year are released into the atmosphere by do-it-yourselfers alone. They account for a third of emission due to paints and sprays.

Fat-and-wax-soluble chlorinated hydrocarbons, such as trichlorethane and tetrachlorethane, are filtered out of the atmosphere all the year round by the needles of conifers.

They are enriched in the wax and fat of the protective layer that covers pine needles to between 1,000 and 2,200 times their atmospheric level, gradually destroying this protective layer.

As a result needles turn yellow in strong sunlight, their chlorophyll is destroyed and the trees die. This is certainly one cause of tree deaths, as shown by Tübingen University toxicologists.

Recent accidents in which danger levels have been exceeded, such as Chernobyl or chemical pollution of the Rhine, have invariably prompted from German politicians the stock response: "At no time has there been any risk to the general public" — at least to the German public.

Politicians and pollution culprits call on scientific findings to back up this claim. Precautions consist of specifying pollution ceilings that must not be exceeded. But this approach is extremely dubious.

The hypothesis that thresholds exist below which no effects occur can be dismissed as having been scientifically disproved. It is no use asking how many people are likely to die; that is far too rough and ready a yardstick.

L. Horst Grimme of Bremen University, head of a working party that recently published detailed findings in this connection, concludes that:

"In view of the risks posed by the current overall toxin situation, by industrial production techniques (especially in the chemicals industry), by lack of knowledge about the possible biological and ecological consequences and by the environmental destruction that has already occurred, the only tenet to which a biologist can subscribe is that there is a constant risk to the general public."

Martin Urban

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 28 February 1987)

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calling into question the unquestioning belief in the medical profession that has long been used to safeguard professional privileges.

He even envisages calling to order errant doctors who issue too many prescriptions by ordering them to appear before a medical panel.

"If a doctor behaves in much the same way as a narcotics dealer," Huber says, "we will have no hesitation in resorting to disciplinary measures."

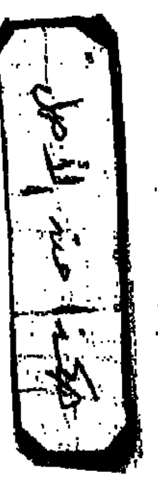
Huber's track record is not entirely one of shocking conservative fellow-doctors. As head of the health department in the borough of Zehlendorf, for instance, he overrode initial GP opposition to set up a round-the-clock first aid centre with an emergency switchboard.

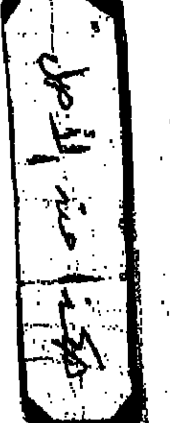
He has offered to collaborate with the conservatives, saying: "Fears of contact are on their side, not ours. We aim to show in the next four years that they are unwarranted."

He is convinced the bounds of traditional medical lobby policy must be exceeded. That, he says, is "the only way to restore hard-hit public confidence in the medical profession."

Birgit Loff

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 March 1987)





■ CHILDREN

Researcher spells out the case against television

General-Anzeiger

Thirty two per cent of children asked in an American survey if they would rather do without their father or their television set opted for having no father.

There are two institutions in New York that treat children television addicts. Both run special schools.

Is television really a dangerous pleasure for children?

Professor Heribert Heinrichs, a media expert and head of the Audio-Visual Centre in Hildesheim, has found in a survey that up to the age of 14, children should not watch crime films on television on their own.

"Children, especially small children, get very involved in crime films. They personally go through the scenes and feel threatened, lost or at someone's mercy. In exciting scenes children draw close to their parents. If they cannot do this, they can be put under great strain and suffer shock."

Professor Heinrichs' organisation began by taking a look at violence in German television. Researchers discovered that in one week there were 416 incidents of violent crime in films screened by the first and second German television channels.

In the week surveyed there were 103 dead on the screen, 52 serious fights, 27 shoot-outs and eight armed holdups.

To these could be added fights, arson, torture, break-ins, blackmail and kidnapping.

Heinrichs said that the high points of the test week were "A man tried to stab to death a sick person. A son shot his mother and grandmother. Criminals tried to run over another with a car. A man shot down a female bear playing with her young."

Heinrichs spoke of "many cases of direct imitation," quoting, for example: "A young boy mixed ground glass into his family's food, just as he had seen it done in an American film."

In a second instance he quoted the case of a 14-year-old from Hildesheim who made a bomb threat against the city's hospital, demanding DM5,000. He confessed after he had been arrested that he had seen a similar threat in an American crime film.

The boy pointed out that in the American film the boy had demanded five thousand dollars. The Hildesheim boy just copied the dollar figure.

In the third case he quoted two 14-year-old girls in Kevelaer choked a nine-year-old with a cover. They told the police: "We wanted to see what it was like when someone died, just like it is on television."

What can parents do? Heinrichs said: "More frequently say no to a television programme. Television should not take over the duties parents have to train and guide their children."

He said that in the evening limits should be imposed on television viewing. "Up until they are 13 children should only be allowed to watch television after nine o'clock in special cases, when there are programmes suitable to children."

He added that parents should show an interest in special programmes for children and watch these programmes together with their children.

Surveys show that television is top of the list of ways of spending leisure time for children between the ages of six and 14.

Heinrichs reports that 13-year-olds in this country watch between two and a half to three hours of television per day. In America children in the pre-school age watch on average 30 hours of TV a week, about a third of their waking lives.

Television's authority is considerable. A study revealed that 43 per cent of children gave television the highest grade for credibility. Radio followed with 25 per cent, newspapers 14 per cent and in last position illustrated magazines.

Heinrichs said: "In more and more cases German psychologists are being asked for advice about television addiction, the symptoms of which are a lack of concentration, reduced school performance and learning difficulties."

Of 2,500 school-beginners in Hamburg 1,500 had behavioural disturbances, most of them because they had watched too much television.

They did not sleep peacefully, were aggressive, extremely nervous and had poor appetites.

The first and second German television channels publish weekly surveys of what children had watched on TV.

One example: "Eduard Zimmermann's *Aktenzeichen XY...*, a programme that re-enacts unsolved crimes and appeals for public help in tracking down wrong-doers, is watched regularly by 1.5 million children between the age of eight and 13." The television stations said that 150,000 three to seven-year olds watched this programme.

Why do so many children prefer adult programmes? Professor Heinrichs commented: "Children like to do what adults do. For many there is 'social prestige' among their friends to have seen a 'fantastic programme'."

He continued: "There are parents who allow their children to watch television late into Saturday evening, so that everyone is tired on Sunday morning and they can all sleep in."

Even babies react to television. Babys from 20 to 30 days old react in various ways to sounds and voices, showing reactions that extend from pleasure to anxiety.

From the fifth month of life on small babies recognise almost everything on television that is an intimate part of the world around them.

Heinrichs advices parents against putting small children to sleep in front of the television or placing a baby's pram in what he calls "a television straitjacket."

Heinrichs said: "Small children cannot handle strange things, the kind of things that television would overwhelm them with. Early in life this would make them nervous and anxious."

The question persists: Should children watch television at all?

Professor Heinrichs said: "Of course they should. Children totally without television are put at a disadvantage in school. We are today on the threshhold of a powerful development in television. Parents should then look more critically than ever before at the requests to watch television their children make."

Karl Habermann

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 7 March 1987)

A museum with a touch of do-it-yourself theatre

A permanent exhibition has been set up in Osnabrück so children can see how people lived in the city 100 years ago.

That might not in itself be unusual. But a feature is that children are invited to play among the exhibits and touch them. The aim is to create interest through participation.

The psychology department of Osnabrück University has set the display up in the city's History of Civilisation Museum especially for children between the ages of 8 and 13.

Dry facts are not presented. Children are encouraged to play hide-and-seek type games, role-playing games, do crossword puzzles and make things with their own hands, as children did a century ago.

It is an attempt to get children to compare their lives with the lives of children who lived during the German Empire.

The aim is to overcome the children's shyness at touching museum objects so that they can get to understand the period.

They can touch and use all the exhibits and play with the old toys and paste old, coloured material on cut-out cardboard dolls.

Old children's books can be rummaged through, and they can try on girls' pinofores, bonnets, and long, white drawers.

Regine Brombach, whose idea the museum is, said that considerable effort had been put into getting the minutiae right. The children get to know the details of daily life in the period at the end of the last century and get a feeling for it.

Much preparation was put into setting up the museum and the oldest citizens of the city were asked what was an ordinary day like then? What did you eat? Where and when could you go out to play?

Just what childhood in the Empire period was like depended into which social class the child was born.

Children born into a working class family were raised in a poor kitchen such as the one that has been re-constructed for this exhibition.

The stools, with straw seats, were home-made and the furniture was rarely matching.

In the wash basin there is a large piece of soap next to the lice comb. In those days all children had lice.

The kitchen crockery was made up mainly of soup bowls, because people usually ate hot-pot for their mid-day meal.

People wore rough wooden shoes and children were forced to go out and earn for the family at a very early age.

In a middle class drawing-room the children find upholstered furniture, a round decorated table with a lace tablecloth, porcelain, vases, decorative figu-

Continued on page 15

Stage for those who don't like the stage

Bremer Nachrichten

Bremen has had a childrens thea- for a decade. It has become par- the syllabus.

The theatre is in a former fa- building near the city centre. Its - to give pupils a close knowledge feel for the theatre by getting the perform themselves.

Classes come four times a week to theatre at Weserburg. The project, P- Project for Artists and Children (kno- by its German initials as MOKS) conti- nues to get an enthusiastic reception, in- cluding from some children who regar- theatre as something not for them.

One boy said: "I always *thought* t- theatre was for the clever ones."

MOKS was set up to demo*lish this* prejudice. It caught on, concentratin- on a specific form of theatre, audien- participation.

Bremen education senator Hors- Werner Franke said with some pride "MOKS in Bremen has become an insti- tution." He added that it was "a substan- tial component of school," and shoul- remain so.

The current head of MOKS, Dr Urs- la Menck, was given encouragement a- regards finances when former educatio- senator Horst von Hassel said that th- theatre could not be expected to liv- from hand to mouth.

"The Senate has always shown understanding for our work," said Dr Menck.

MOKS is made up of five actors an- actresses. In the course of the year, na- turally, the members of the team change

Dr Menck who has studied thea- gives the group its continuity. She *has* been with MOKS from the beginning and is assisted by two teachers, one fo- the arts and one for music.

For the MOKS team their work is kind of experimental theatre, a dialogu- between the players and the audience They do not see themselves as the *long* arm of school.

Dr Menck said: "We are theatre peo- ple and do not teach by means of thea- tre." The aim was that by taking part th- children themselves got to know wha- theatre was all about and in this wa- overcame their fear of entering a thea- tre.

The MOKS team have themselve- developed the playlets in which th- schoolboys and girls can take part. The- had to because there are no pieces *for* the theatre of this kind.

Projects of this sort have to begin right at the beginning. An actress said: "That is exciting and difficult at one and the same time, and it is certainly not boring work."

The group works as a collective and independently, and links to the Bremen Theater forged last year have not *al*tered this.

Outside directors are sometimes brought in but only for conventional plays, in which the public does not take part.

MOKS is open to adult audiences in the evening performances.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 16 February 1987)

■ SOCIETY

The rising cost of keeping terror and spies at bay

DIE ZEIT

About 150 names are on the list of endangered people compiled by the security authorities in Germany. They are politicians, military officers and executives in what has come to be called the military-industrial complex.

The terror business has, of course, become world-wide. In America, security is a boom industry and is booming at a faster and faster rate.

Sales of security equipment and the provision of personnel have been climbing for some years at 40 per cent a year. So it is that the terrorists use their greatest declared class enemy, capital, as their own weapon.

But German security firms can only dream of the growth that their American colleagues have. Here, the growth rate is only about five or six per cent a year.

The boom in this country was in the 1970s when the terror onslaught began to pick up and industrial espionage by East Bloc began to increase.

Harry Loyo, a lawyer, is manager of the umbrella organisation covering German security and guarding firms. He says the 70s were when firms heavily increased their spending on security. From 1970 to 1980, the turnover of the security industry rose from 315 million marks a year to 1.5 billion marks. The turnover has now settled at 1.5 billion marks a year.

There are 620 member firms. About 340 of them have turnovers of more than 250,000 marks a year. A giant in the field is DSW-Sicherheit- und Werkschutz GmbH in Düsseldorf. It employs 1,500 and its annual turnover is about 70 million marks.

The entire industry employs 40,000 and uses 20,000 temporary workers.

Only a few are involved in protecting business. Member firms of the national organisation are less involved against terrorism than in other forms of security, internal security for example.

Loyo says that that even applies to protection for large companies which needed internal protection even before terror against industry was thought of.

Protection against terror requires specialists, regardless of whether the terror is directed against industry or the State. Security for industry is financed by: DIHT, the standing conference of chambers of commerce and industry; BDI, the confederation of German industry; and BDA, the employers' group.

Together, they work through the business security group, ASW. There are 950 firms associated with ASW through various affiliations. ASW holds many seminars and classes to pass on security know how.

How effective the approach has been draws a divided reaction. Heribert Hellenbroich, former head of both espionage and counter-espionage in West Germany, has a catalogue of criticisms: "There are too many organisations involved. There needs to be a central coordinating unit."

Franz Xaver Königseder, who heads the private institute for security research (ISF) in Feldkirchen, near Munich, says the industrial organisation has a "bureaucrat mentality". But the manager of a large private security firm disagrees and says that they work extremely well.

George Pohl, the manager of ASW, refutes the criticism: "If we didn't offer a good service, then we wouldn't have so many large firms as members. They wouldn't find it necessary."

Hellenbroich might have "a brilliant knowledge and great experience about counter espionage" but he didn't have "the slightest idea about protecting people."

Hellenbroich was recently taken on as an adviser by Königseder's ISF. Perhaps this has some connection with the outburst against him. Königseder, a lawyer and regarded as extraordinarily clever, is also not liked by the ASW employees. The smug observation that "we haven't yet seen any ISF research reports," is being heard more and more often.

Complaints and jealousies appear to be typical in an industry where secrecy of work is necessary and where there are a few people who dream of making a quick buck.

The trade has been further brought into disrepute by one or two activities which have come to light in the State security organisations.

But members of the federal criminal investigation branch, BKA, also criticise what industry is doing to prevent terrorism. One senior BKA officer maintains that not enough has been done to make sure anti-terrorist equipment is installed.



Hiring and firing ... a million a year for around-the-clock bodygard protection plus equipment. (Photo: dpa)

He says: "Most find security too expensive. Often enough one or two retired policemen are hired. I've got nothing against their efficiency, but that is just not enough."

It was typical that a major German bank had changed their minds about providing an armoured car for board members because it would have been too expensive. This was after the killing of employers representative Hanns-Martin Schleyer.

Security is not cheap, especially defence against terrorism. Even with discount, providing armoured cars for each member of a five-member board would cost about a million marks.

Then, round-the-clock protection for a businessman means not one bodyguard but three. If the cost of technical accessories is added, the cost runs out at a million a year.

Protecting things is also expensive. Experts say it costs between six and 11 per cent of the building cost a year to protect a building. Firms shy away from this sort of outlay.

Bernhard Geiben, a Paris-based security adviser to industrialists, says security budgets are regarded as dead capital. "It is just like the money given out for insurance. After the money has been recouped through accident, they say, well that paid off. But then, people don't gladly pay for prevention."

Geiben, a 37-year-old former army major, is a specialist in anti-terror who has recently turned to private security with his firm, Cube International.

He spent 15 years in the Luxembourg army, where he built up an anti-terrorist units along the lines of the German GSG-9 unit. He has a criminology degree and is a graduate of the French police school.

He has taken over many assignments from state agencies in France including protecting VIPs, kings and politicians. New clients include large European and American firms.

Last summer he was responsible for protecting the American team at the world swimming championships in Madrid.

He chose Paris as his base because "sooner or later everyone comes to Paris." Yet he doesn't want everyone as a client. He has set a strict limit to the cases he handles to a maximum of between 30 and 50 customers because "it is a personal service and should not become a mass service."

He is not keen on excessive equipment and technology and, although he admits it has to be used, does not take up the many offers from producers of technical equipment. He goes for ideas. That is what clients pay for, he says.

He says obvious and fixed forms of defence should be avoided. They only lead to a neurosis, which is what terrorists want. They want to intimidate people so much that they cannot lead a normal life. "If you give way on that, you fall into the trap."

His principle is increasing everybody's awareness. "That begins with the doorman and receptionist and goes right up to the people on the boardroom floor.

"They must all realise that just because something appears to be normal, it doesn't mean that it IS normal."

Wolfgang Hoffmann

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 6 March 1983)

Continued from page 14

rines, books in a glass bookcase and a well-preserved doll's house that shows the daughter of the house what her future duties will be.

A class photograph, old-fashioned teaching material, that amuse today's children enormously and the dunce's seat to which naughty and disobedient children were banished, give some indication of the strict teaching methods of the period.

The psychology department has done everything possible to make the exhibition as suitable for children as possible, while at the same time being of interest to adults.

The captions to the photographs and the exhibits are written in simple language without using foreign words. They have been placed at eye-level so children can read them easily.

The accompanying brochure to this exhibition was manifestly worked through by nine to ten-year-olds. In future it is intended to include Osnabrück children in the preparations for future exhibitions.

Adult visitors get ecstatic at the sight of the old photos and exhibits, but the children are dispassionate and much more interested in how the toys work.

They let the spinning top whizz across the floor and try to get the marbles into the correct hole. In no way do they get ecstatic about the past.

A 12-year-old boy saw it all soberly. He said: "You must not get anything you play with dirty there and the beautiful doll's house would be quickly packed away by father after Christmas."

Ingrid Hilgers

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